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ABSTRACT

As part 1 of a four part report to the U.S. Congress pursuant to Title IX, Section 901 of the Agricultural Act of 1970, this fourth annual report is limited to rural development activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) delivery system (the USDA National Rural Development Committee, State Rural Development Committee, and county committees). Presented via statistical and narrative summaries and exemplary State activities, this report discusses each of the following major program thrusts: housing; organization and leadership development; comprehensive planning; community services and facilities; health and welfare; manpower development; recreation and tourism; business and industrial development; environmental improvement; and rural cooperatives. Also presented are total efforts of the land-grant universities which involve training professional personnel for leadership, conducting research, and extending knowledge beyond the university to the populace. Discussion relative to committee membership, organization, and activity scope is supported by tabular displays relative to 1973 State and substate rural development committee composition, major activity involvement, and man-years of USDA rural development information and technical assistance. Names and addresses of USDA rural development committee chairmen are appended. (JC)

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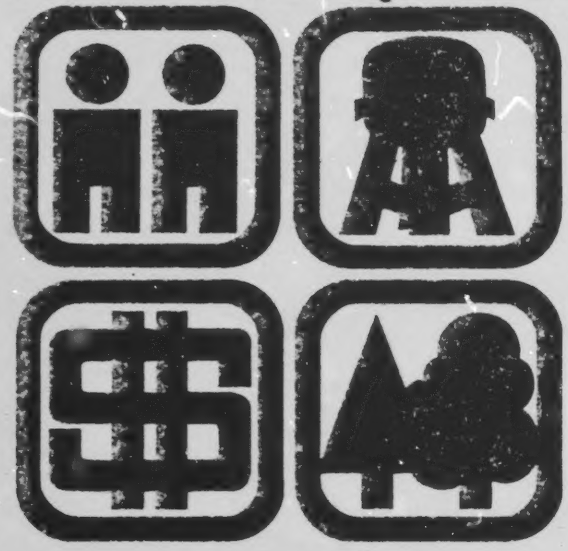

PART 1.

Information and Technical Assistance Delivered by the Department of Agriculture in Fiscal Year 1973

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FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESS
(Pursuant to Title IX, Section 901
of the Agricultural Act of 1970)

RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

"MAKING RURAL AMERICA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK"

PEOPLE BUILDING

- Job Training
- Education
- Health Services
- Food and Nutrition
- Cultural
- Income Security
- Leadership

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Housing
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Waste Disposal and Water Supply

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Jobs
- Agriculture
- Business
- Industry
- Credit

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

- Conservation
- Recreation
- Forests and Wildlife
- Land Use Planning and Zoning

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

September 1, 1973

To the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House:

The fourth annual report on Information and Technical Assistance Delivered by the Department of Agriculture in Fiscal Year 1973, in support of rural development is being transmitted today pursuant to Title IX, Section 901(d) of the Agricultural Act of 1970.

This report reflects contributions to rural development made by the various USDA agencies in concert with State and local rural development committees. For the most part, contributions made unilaterally by the individual agencies under their respective programs, although quite significant, have been excluded.

We are pleased with the continuing progress made during the past year as evidenced by this report.

Sincerely,

J Phil Campbell

J. Phil Campbell
Acting Secretary

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SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

This is the fourth annual report to the Congress on the information and technical assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the state Extension Services in rural development. Previous reports explained how USDA provides aggressive leadership to this effort through its unparalleled delivery system of RD committees and through its various agencies at the national, state and local levels.

In FY 73, USDA expanded its information and technical assistance for RD to 4,614 man years. This is an increase of more than 300 man years, or 7 percent, over FY 72 and a 44 percent increase over FY 71. The Department also assisted more than 170,000 different community projects in FY 73 and conducted more than 33,000 feasibility studies in its efforts to bring social, economic and cultural progress and promote a more balanced growth in this nation.

The staff was also involved in nearly 200,000 workshops, conferences and meetings on RD. These meetings were attended by key community leaders, public officials and other interested citizens seeking help in finding solutions to their pressing community problems. In addition, publications and audio-visual presentations were used extensively in providing information to assist in resolving the problems of rural America. These publications and presentations numbered in the thousands and benefited millions.

Significant accomplishments were made in each of 10 concentrated program thrusts:

1. Organization and leadership development
2. Comprehensive planning
3. Community services and facilities
4. Housing
5. Health and welfare
6. Manpower development
7. Recreation and tourism
8. Environmental improvement
9. Business and industrial development
10. Rural cooperatives

For example, 25 state RD Committees placed particular emphasis on environmental improvement. A total of 1,187 man years were devoted to environmental improvement assistance in the nation by USDA and Extension employees in FY 73, compared to 1,064 in FY 72. The number of surveys and feasibility studies; meetings, workshops and conferences; and news articles prepared for use in newspapers and periodicals were all higher than in FY 72.

Similar accomplishments are discussed in this report for each of the program thrust areas, using both statistical summaries and highlights and examples of the work in the various states.

Environmental improvement and organization and leadership development continue to be the program thrusts with the largest USDA resource input. Comprehensive planning and community services and facilities also command large portions of time.

Included also are the total efforts of Land-Grant Universities. The Land-Grant Universities, in helping citizens, voluntary groups and public policy-making bodies, enhanced the process of rural development during FY 73. This was a three-pronged role of training professional personnel to serve as leaders, conducting research to discover new knowledge, new products and new ways of solving problems, and extending knowledge from the University campus to the citizens of the state. Many other public and private colleges and universities also made contributions to rural development.

All of these efforts are calculated to help community leaders push development ahead and make rural America a better place to live, work and enjoy life.

The RD Committee structure has matured since its inception in 1969 and is meshing smoothly with agency activities at all levels. In addition to a short summary of overall state, regional and local committee membership, organization and activities, this report, for the first time, contains statements which, in the opinion of the committees, best represent their achievements during FY 73 and their plans, goals and areas of emphasis for the future.

This report is a consolidation and summary of information submitted by USDA agencies and state RD Committees. A copy of the RD Committee Report for a specific state may be obtained by contacting the Committee Chairman for the state (See Appendix A).

The report was prepared under the overall guidance of the National RD Committee. The National Committee has been expanded during the past year from 6 USDA agencies to 11. Joining ERS, ES, FHA, FS, REA, and SCS as member agencies are ARS, ASCS, CSRS, FCS and RDS. The complete makeup of the National Committee is shown in Appendix B.

Appendix C offers a quick index to where the various states and territories are mentioned in the report. Appendix D explains abbreviations frequently used throughout the report.

This report is limited to rural development activities and therefore excludes the technical and credit assistance provided for agricultural production and marketing, and for the construction, maintenance and service of housing, community facilities, water control structures and like projects.

This is Part 1 of a four-part report to the Congress pursuant to Title IX, Section 901 of the Agricultural Act of 1970. The other parts deal with planning assistance, location of federal facilities and government services.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The USDA agencies and Extension expanded their information and technical assistance on rural development to local communities, districts and State planning and development groups to 4,614 man-years in FY 73 (see Table 1). This compares to 4,301 man-years expended in FY 72 and 3,200 in FY 71. Thus, the Department increased assistance by 7 percent over FY 72 and by 44 percent over FY 71.

It was a mixed picture by the 10 program thrusts, with increases in 7 thrusts and decreases in 3. Largest increases were in the thrusts of comprehensive planning, up 168 man-years or 35 percent; recreation and tourism, up 71 man-years or 32 percent; business and industrial development, up 43 man-years or 25 percent; and rural cooperatives, up 45 man-years or 100 percent. The decreases were in the thrusts of housing, health and welfare, and manpower development.

Environmental improvement and organization and leadership development continued to be the program thrusts with the largest USDA resource input. Comprehensive planning and community facilities and services also received a great deal of attention.

The staff assisted more than 170,000 projects in FY 73 and conducted more than 33,000 feasibility studies. The staff took the initiative in convening and conducting about 90,000 workshops, conferences and meetings on rural development, and assisted with another 100,000 meetings.

Publications and audio-visual presentations were used more extensively in assisting with rural development in FY 73 than in FY 72.

Table 1 --Rural Development Information and Technical Assistance Provided by USDA, FY 1973

Program Thrust	Man Years Expended	Projects Assisted	Surveys and Feasibility Studies	Workshops, Conferences and Meetings		Publications (Newsletters, Bulletins, Fact Sheets)		Audio-Visual Presentations
				Convened and Conducted	* Assisted	Different Publications Prepared	Total Number Distributed	
Organization and Leadership Development	923	58,166	2,570	36,284	18,066	49,122	1,218,633	10,781
Comprehensive Planning	648	26,373	12,016	9,759	32,637	18,639	819,700	4,351
Community Services and Facilities	568	30,717	5,159	10,609	14,109	54,004	1,192,493	10,509
Housing	278	8,401	2,268	6,067	5,498	32,082	1,050,857	7,882
Health and Welfare	166	5,300	2,324	5,219	5,000	39,502	714,702	7,178
Manpower Development	241	2,749	653	1,825	2,160	3,347	163,116	1,686
Recreation and Tourism	296	9,030	2,236	4,197	5,383	23,583	2,115,142	5,256
Environmental Improvement	1,187	24,677	4,554	13,138	15,873	70,777	6,162,092	34,354
Business and Industrial Development	218	4,625	994	2,287	4,489	8,553	862,176	4,776
Rural Cooperatives	89	1,886	436	1,438	1,767	3,649	236,820	1,205
TOTAL	4,614	171,924	33,210	90,823	104,982	303,258	14,535,731	87,978

* If more than one agency assisted with the same meeting, some duplication may be involved.

STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

Membership

The state committees expanded and broadened total membership in FY 73 by about 100 members (Tables 2-3). Additional members were drawn from each of the five categories of membership.

Organization

The trend to expand the number of area (multi-county) sub-state committees, noted in the FY 72 report, continued in FY 73. The number of area committees increased from 235 to 245 with one state, Idaho, establishing its first area committees.

There was a decrease in the number of county committees, from 2,193 in FY 72 to 2,152 in FY 73, a drop of 41 or less than two percent.

Activities

Table 3 shows the number of state committees which have undertaken major activities or projects by 10 major thrust areas in FY 73. Examples of these activities may be found in the Program Thrusts section of this report.

Most state committees view themselves as carrying out these functions:

1. Coordination of rural development activities.
2. Promoting USDA interagency cooperation in RD.
3. Maintaining liaison with other federal, state and local RD groups.
4. Providing leadership and encouragement to sub-state committees.

Most do not consider their group to be an "action" organization. This usually falls to the agencies and organizations which are members. A few representative quotations from selected state committee reports will help illustrate the self-perceived committee roles:

> "The USDA RD Committee attempts to improve the communications and coordination of activities between federal and state agencies."--Arkansas.

> ...acts as "a coordinating group and information body on problems relating to rural areas."--California.

> "...community and resource development programs must be carried out in close cooperation with state and local agencies, if these programs are to be effective."--Delaware.

Table 2 --Composition of State and Substate Rural Development Committees, FY 1973

State	USDA Including Extension	Other Federal Agencies	State Agencies	Other University Members	Citizen Groups, Organizations, Firms, etc.	Total Membership	Number of Area Committees	Number of County Committees
Alabama	8	1	6	2	1	18	0	67*
Alaska	8	15	10	3	5	41	4	0
Arizona	19	14	44	15	28	120	1	10
Arkansas	13	0	2	1	0	16	8	75*
California	10	0	7	1	2	20	0	0
Colorado	8	4	11	0	6	29	12	0
Connecticut	9	2	6	1	1	19	0	0
Delaware	6	0	1	1	0	8	0	3*
Florida	11	3	3	1	0	18	0	67*
Georgia	8	0	6	4	6	24	0	156
Hawaii	6	3	3	0	0	12	0	4*
Idaho	7	2	1	1	0	11	4	42
Illinois	14	0	1	0	0	15	8	77
Indiana	10	3	7	0	0	20	14	0
Iowa	9	0	2	1	0	12	3	100*
Kansas	8	0	2	0	1	11	11	105*
Kentucky	6	0	3	0	1	10	12	98
Louisiana	13	1	6	1	0	21	0	59
Maine	7	0	5	1	0	13	2	7
Maryland	9	1	12	2	9	33	1	3
Massachusetts	12	1	13	2	0	28	0	0
Michigan	8	0	1	0	0	9	0	72
Minnesota	7	0	0	0	0	7	7	0
Mississippi	8	0	6	1	1	16	0	82*
Missouri	9	4	4	2	1	20	20	0
Montana	11	0	1	1	0	13	6	50
Nebraska	10	0	2	0	0	12	26	0
Nevada	7	0	1	1	0	9	4	7

* All counties in the State

Table 2 --Composition of State and Substate Rural Development Committees, FY 1973 (Contd.)

State	USDA Including Extension	Other Federal Agencies	State Agencies	Other University Members	Citizen Groups, Organizations, Firms, etc.	Total Membership	Number of Area Committees	Number of County Committees
New Hampshire	7	0	2	1	0	10	0	0
New Jersey	8	1	5	0	0	14	2	7
New Mexico	7	0	1	0	0	8	7	23
New York	7	0	9	1	0	17	12	0
North Carolina	7	0	6	2	3	18	0	100*
North Dakota	8	0	1	0	0	9	3	49
Ohio	9	0	2	0	0	11	4	84
Oklahoma	8	0	1	1	0	10	11	77*
Oregon	7	1	3	0	0	11	14	10
Pennsylvania	8	0	2	1	0	11	3	64
Puerto Rico	7	0	2	1	0	10	5	73
Rhode Island	9	1	8	1	1	20	0	0
South Carolina	6	0	3	0	0	9	10	0
South Dakota	9	0	0	0	0	9	4	53
Tennessee	7	0	2	0	0	9	8	95*
Texas	8	1	5	0	1	15	0	254*
Utah	6	2	4	2	0	14	7	0
Vermont	10	1	6	1	1	19	5	0
Virgin Islands	7	0	0	0	0	7	1	1
Virginia	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Washington	12	4	21	0	2	39	4	39*
West Virginia	8	0	7	0	6	21	0	55*
Wisconsin	8	5	11	2	0	26	2	61
Wyoming	10	1	4	1	0	16	0	23*
TOTAL	450	71	271	56	76	924	245	2,152

* All counties in the State

Table 3 --Who Serves on Rural Development Committees

Members of State Committees	No. States Represented FY 73	No. States Represented FY 72	No. of Members FY 73	No. of Members FY 72
USDA Agencies, including Extension	52[1]	51[2]	450	424
Other Federal Agencies	21	20	71	66
State Agencies	48	47	271	244
Other University Members	30	30	56	52
Citizen Groups, Organizations, Firms, etc.	18	14	76	41
		TOTAL	924	827

Sub-State Committees	No. of States FY 73	No. of States FY 72	No. Committees FY 73	No. Committees FY 72
Area (Multi-County)	34	32	245	235
County	36	35	2,152	2,193

[1] Including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

[2] Including Puerto Rico

: :

Table 4 --Major Activities Undertaken by State Rural Development Committees, FY 1973

Program Thrusts	Number of State Committees Emphasizing Thrust
1. Organization and Leadership Development	37
2. Comprehensive Planning	33
3. Community Services and Facilities	26
4. Housing	17
5. Health and Welfare	16
6. Manpower Development	14
7. Recreation and Tourism	12
8. Environmental Improvement	25
9. Business and Industrial Development	21
10. Rural Cooperatives	4

"...to develop a cooperative rural development program with state government."--Illinois.

"...a coordinating committee. It does not view itself as an agency performing specific tasks that may be undertaken by state or federal agencies."--Nevada.

"Now some three years after it started, the Committee, without statutory authority, has become the major link between agencies, and a base for interagency cooperation in our effort to assist the people of rural New York."

"...provide the overall guidance and leadership necessary to stimulate action and assist others in implementing programs designed to improve the social and economic development of West Virginia."

The scope and breadth of activities being carried out by state committees is varied and innovative, as suggested by the following examples.

Arkansas conducted a workshop involving the American Institute of Planners. Georgia had a rural industrialization conference. Maryland helped stage the national meeting of the American Country Life Association. West Virginia had a health department clinic. Illinois held local government seminars.

The New York Committee, after more than 15 months of preparation, met with the Governor in January, 1973 and, at the Governor's request, is continuing communication through information statements. The meeting was "highly successful" concerning updating on RD activities and seeking advice and assistance of the Governor.

New Mexico continues to carry out the activities started in its "Concilium" of May, 1972. The Concilium was held to study and analyze plans and seek agreement on solution to rural problems. The state committee reports progress on 15 recommendations made at the Concilium.

Minnesota encouraged formation of an interagency state RD council. The Governor formed such a council in April, 1973. The Washington state Committee is cooperating with the Governor's newly-formed Human Affairs Council.

Most committees are involved in training. In Kansas, training has included (1) day-long statewide USDA middle management workshops, one on local RD and another on long-range objectives and plans of work, (2) quarterly meetings of regional USDA middle management committees and regional resource committees, (3) regional workshops on leadership training and organization for county RD committees and (4) special subject matter training for area and county USDA staff on conservation and management.

Many states have made studies, published reports and publications. Maryland's "Planning for Tomorrow," a summary of their 1972 state RD conference, has been circulated to 2,000 people. The Committee mails its monthly "Summer News" to keep members informed of RD activities when meetings are not held and also prepares a December newsletter. Maryland plans a RD resource catalog. Montana issued its third "Situation Statement" in February. The Committee cooperated with the state Rural Areas Development Committee in gathering data for a farm and ranch vacation guide. Also in Montana, an area committee surveyed a mosquito problem by means of a questionnaire.

Several committees are recognizing the role youth should play in rural development. Arkansas is on record and committed to involving youth. Maryland has considered extending Committee membership to a state youth group; one county committee has voted a youth representative aboard; others are expected to do the same. Maryland has also studied the rural youth drug abuse problem. South Dakota held a rural youth symposium on how youth can become involved in RD; attendance was 150 youth. Also, the state has conducted a youth leadership training course. West Virginia reports many of its county committees have added youth members.

Committees are also helping minority groups. California, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas had workshops for minority businessmen, mostly Spanish speaking or Spanish surnamed. California had eight workshops with 184 attending; four new enterprises were initiated and implemented as a result of the Colorado workshops; the Texas workshops were at four locations, with 160 taking part. Delaware has been aiding minority landowners. A Washington county RD committee helped place an Indian youth in a responsible job in his chosen field of forestry.

Kentucky cooperated with the Kentucky Development Committee in an information and education forum dealing with the Rural Development Act of 1972. Wisconsin held a statewide information and education program to inform citizens, local people and elected officials on the provisions of the Act.

Some committees found much of their time consumed dealing with disasters. Pennsylvania reported: "FY 73 commenced with all 67 Pennsylvania counties designated disaster areas as a result of hurricane 'Agnes.' This caused completely different priorities in the use of personnel and all resources for much of the year." However, the Committee says "superior working relationships" resulted. Two hurricanes and hailstorms resulted in the New Jersey Committee working with FHA to publicize emergency programs available to victims. North Carolina county panels assisted local people after floods and, in Virginia, all USDA agencies helped with flood recovery--both "emergency" and "long-term."

The energy situation received attention from state committees. The Iowa Committee visited a nuclear power plant under construction to increase their understanding of energy use. The Kentucky Committee dealt with energy at a forum.

Twelve state committees report being closely involved with development or support of RC&D projects and three -- Ohio, Oklahoma and Wisconsin -- report heavy involvement with area RD pilot demonstrations.

High recognition came to committees in two states. The LaSalle Parish, Louisiana Rural Development Committee received the USDA's highest award -- the Distinguished Service Award. The Alabama-USDA Rural Development Council received a Superior Service group achievement award from USDA for its rural community development program. State committees are also recognizing outstanding accomplishments by groups and individuals. The Alabama Committee will recognize an outstanding county committee each year; Maryland plans to award certificates of recognition and appreciation to individuals and organizations for demonstrated initiative and ability in RD.

State committees are also seeking to foster public awareness of RD activities. In West Virginia, efforts along this line include (1) developing and maintaining a booth at the state food and agriculture exhibition, (2) a progress and information meeting with the National USDA RD Committee in Washington, D.C., (3) a monthly newsletter for exchange of information with county committees and (4) a county committee newsletter.

All this says much about the activities of state-USDA RD committees. Perhaps the best way to sum up this section is with quotes from two committee reports:

> "Any report requiring submission of only major program activity and specific success stories fails to take into account the kinds of things that contribute to the continuing viability and growing success of an organization concerned with initiating and strengthening the process of rural development. How can you measure and record, for example, the Council's gift of a 24 lb. turkey at Christmas time to needy folks in Western Maryland? Or how can one quantify the Council's pre-eminent role in Maryland as a forum for exchange of programs, ideas and opinions among so varied a group of organizations, agencies and interests...In summary, these are examples of things which are incumbent in the day-to-day charge the Council has self-ordained -- to be a catalyst for progress." --Maryland Rural Affairs Council.

> "The work of this Committee as we move toward 'New Federalism' should be ever expanding and of greater need to state and local government as time progresses. In other words, we expect to do more and to do it better."--Montana USDA Committee for Rural Development.

SUMMARIES OF STATE-USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

ALABAMA

The Alabama-USDA Rural Development Council's philosophy emphasizes the involvement of local people in planning and implementing projects and program. It operates on the premise that the key to rural development is more than programs and funds, but local people--their needs, interests, motivation, capabilities, involvement and leadership.

The Council views its role as supportive and catalytic in nature and serves important functions of communication and liaison with relevant groups and organizations leaving development and related decisions to the rural and non-farm families affected. More specifically the Council attempts to:

1. Provide guidance to county USDA personnel for the organization, maintenance and function of county rural development citizen committees;
2. Provide training opportunities for members of county committees;
3. Act as liaison with relevant public and private agencies and organizations at the area, state and national levels; and
4. Promote individual agency and group intiative and communication through which effort can be focused on common problems.

Since the Alabama Council's major effort is directed toward the involvement of local people, much of its energy is spent in promoting the organization and effective functioning of county rural development committees. Such a citizen's group is operating in each of Alabama's 67 counties and is assisted and supported by USDA field personnel and by professionals from other public and private organizations. County Extension Chairmen serve as secretaries to these county committees. Their membership is broadly constituted, reflecting both geographic and socio-economic interests. The 67 county RD committees serve as a forum for airing, investigating and highlighting local needs and problems and for 1973 have planned and are in the process of implementing 248 projects.

The Council is attempting to demonstrate that people from different areas of endeavor and with strong individual interests can make an important contribution to improving rural life by working cooperatively on programs of mutual concern. If rural development programs are to be most successful, this lesson must be learned by both professional workers and citizens at all levels.

ALASKA

The Alaska Council's greatest achievement for rural development is its coordinating mechanism and open forums. It has provided the first effective coordination between state and federal agencies. This recognizes and reflects the efforts of the Governor and his staff.

The Council has served Alaskan citizens by coordinating activities of agencies with similar interests and should facilitate proper planning and development within the state.

The Council provides the latest information on the Rural Development Act of 1972; local, state and federal information on revenue sharing and data on Alaskan resources. Examples of data provided are institutional arrangements or authorities for housing financing, the location and potential of agricultural lands, and plans and information on rural fire protection.

The Council keeps current on significant pending and adopted legislation. It has provided expert forum discussion on recreation and telecommunications as requested by interested citizens.

The role of the Council will continue to be dynamic, addressing itself to the high priority needs for proper development and disseminating needed data, while maintaining the quality of rural living. Alaska, being on the threshold of development, makes it impossible to predict the exact role and programs that will be carried out next program year. The Council, involving more than 40 active federal, state and other agencies will continue to address itself to statewide problems.

ARIZONA

Major achievements during FY 73 of the Arizona State Rural Development Committee were: (1) continued thrusts in meetings with communities to help solve or alleviate major problems in rural areas and (2) self-educational meetings on energy, recreation and land use, the RD Act of 1972 and "Communi-Link" -- an approach to community education.

As in the past, the state Committee held meetings with communities to clarify problems and facilitate followup work; the Committee itself does no followup. Examples of followup on community meetings held prior to FY 73:

1. Fredonia - Flood control project and sanitary land fill project have been completed and the water system is now under city ownership.

2. Show Low - An areawide sewer system study is underway for Mogollon Rim.

Examples of followup on community meetings held in FY 73:

1. Springerville - Expansion of the water system, construction

of several houses, formation of a sanitary district, improvement of two local fire-fighting services and completion of community attitude survey.

2. St. John - Flood control is being worked on by several agencies. A major irrigation ditch from Lyman Lake to St. Johns was completed and a community attitude survey was conducted.

3. Wickenburg - An impact study of the Interstate 10 bypass was made and two related workshops were held. A workshop was held for planning commission employees and planning surveys for some watersheds are being conducted.

The state Committee has three major goals for FY 1974. They are: (1) continue to meet with rural communities, whereby a clarifying or facilitating role seems possible, (2) develop a thrust area into land use planning -- this will involve state and federal agencies, members of the legislature and communities, counties, districts and local citizens and (3) provide for educational program at regular monthly meetings not held with communities.

ARKANSAS

The USDA Rural Development Committee plans are to improve the communication and coordination of activities between federal and state agencies. Plans were implemented during FY 73, and are being continued into FY 74, to include state agency people on the USDA Committee and to invite members of federal agencies to attend state sub-cabinet level meetings. It is mutually agreed by both federal and state people that this type arrangement should improve coordination of state-federal efforts.

The Committee is on record and committed to involving youth in rural areas development in Arkansas. The Committee fully supports the Department of Agriculture's policy to broaden participation in community development programs to include youth.

CALIFORNIA

The California Resources Affairs Council's greatest achievement during FY 73 has been its development into a coordinating group for rural development. In the beginning of the year, the Council had more truly defined its objective and role, although it continued to respond to various requests and conducted a series of activities that were successful and beneficial to rural areas -- the major ones being workshops conducted with Spanish-speaking minorities and statewide appraisal of the need for water and sewer facilities. Nevertheless, the greatest achievement has been the maturing of the committee into an action-oriented group. The Council has expanded its membership to include federal and state agencies, representatives of regional councils, county and city governments and private interests.

Because of its wide representation and concern with rural problems, the Council has been asked by the Governor to be the advisory group for the implementation of the 1972 Rural Development Act.

The major goal for FY 74 is implementation of the RD Act in those areas of the state most needing assistance. In conjunction with this goal, the Council has an objective of bringing together all programs and services available to rural areas to concentrate on pilot areas selected for the RD Act.

The Council will place special emphasis on the expansion of job opportunities and the improvement of environmental quality of communities in California, especially those in the rural development designated areas.

COLORADO

The Colorado State Rural Development Committee has included state agency representatives in addition to USDA and other federal agencies that relate to rural development.

In lieu of county development committees, Colorado is organized on the basis of 12 regional rural development committees that are geographically coterminous to the 12 state planning and management districts. District committees will be expected to provide assistance to any sub-district committees as may be organized within the district and to refer to the state committee any requests of this nature which require attention of or support by the state Committee.

Purpose

"As a general operating practice, each agency shall be expected to meet its own responsibilities through regular organizational procedures. However, the State Rural Development Committee shall provide a mechanism for inter-agency communication linkages and means of consensus expression on state, regional, and federal policy issues related to rural development. The function of the state and regional committees shall consist of assisting in the coordination of state resources to rural development needs which may be assisted by this agency. These efforts shall be designed to maximize total agency contribution and to assist in the processes of developing cooperative and supportive relationships between those agencies and state and local agencies or organizational activity."

Activities Related to and Supported by the State Committee

1. Workshops for Spanish-Speaking Businessmen - Three workshops were held in the southwestern area of the state.

2. Four Corners Regional Commission - The Committee participated in developing recommendations for priority agricultural programs for the southwest corner of the state. The report was submitted to the Governor's representative on the Four Corners Commission.

3. Goals and Functions Ad Hoc Committee.

4. State Rural Development Commission - The state Committee, in cooperation with the regional committees, assisted the RD Commission in holding 13 citizen involvement meetings regarding issues related to rural development.

5. Community-Wide Planning Workshop - Held in the northeastern region of the state, co-sponsored by the state and regional RD committees and Northeastern Junior College.

6. Reports by regional committee chairmen - Two regional committee chairmen personally made reports directly to the Committee relative to activities in their regions during the year.

General Comments

During the year different agencies and activities were reported to the Committee at regular meetings. These reports included: Bureau of Land Management Planning Systems, Reports from the Four Corners Regional Commission, Colorado Humanities Program, Artrain Schedule, Youth Involvement in Rural Development, American Medical Health Association Programs and Annual American Institute of Planners State Conference.

CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut USDA Rural Development Committee during FY 73 devoted its time to four major areas of concern: comprehensive planning, community services and facilities, health and welfare and environmental improvement.

The major effort in comprehensive planning, in addition to what each member agency may have done in relation to regional planning and local planning efforts, was to work with the Office of State Planning on a review and critique of the Connecticut Plan for Conservation and Development.

The RD Committee reviewed the plan in detail and has made recommendations based on their perceptions of the state and how the rural areas of the state will be affected by the plan as proposed. The committee, as it reviewed the plan, was concerned with whether or not it preserved balance in the state. They were also concerned with whether or not agriculture and forestry should be identified as viable units in the state's economic and social fabric and as such have an identity of their own in the plan.

There was also concern expressed in the committee that the plan would tend to strengthen the "have" communities at the expense of the "have-not" communities, so the committee has recommended that thought be given to equalizing the income of communities so that those in "slow" growth areas might develop on a par with other communities as their citizens demanded services.

In 1971, the Committee, at the urging of the federal veterinarian, took under advisement the need for an export/import facility for cattle in the New England region. After numerous discussions on this, it was called to the attention of the Commissioner of Agriculture who, working through his channels and with the Department of Transportation, has developed a plan for facilities at Bradley International Airport for the export of cattle. Recently the New England Regional Commission has been approached to help support this project with a grant of $25,000. Preliminary estimates to date are that there will be approximately 200 plane loads of cattle per year.

A major concern in rural areas is health and the delivery of health care services. During 1973, the committee has met with representatives of the health profession to explore the needs in greater depth. The Connecticut Medical Society has appointed a delegate to the Committee and the Committee plans to devote more time to exploring these needs during the next year.

During FY 74, the Committee plans to continue its work with environmental improvement, the delivery of health care services and a study of health care needs in the rural areas of the state in cooperation with the nonmetropolitan regional planning agencies.

Because of the highly organized nature of the state, the member agencies of the committee do a great deal of direct work with municipal officials, local planning and zoning groups, regional planning agencies, industrial commissions and state agencies that in many other circumstances would be done by the Committee as a whole.

Because of this, a good deal of the time of the committee is devoted to being aware of what is being done by each member and determining how work being carried on may be supplemented and complemented through joint efforts. During the next year this complementary factor will be strengthened.

DELAWARE

The Delaware USDA Resource Development Committee was organized for the basic purpose of helping individuals and communities in the nonmetropolitan areas of the state to improve their overall quality of living. The objectives of the Committee are as follows:

1. Development of economic opportunities.
2. Improvement of community organization and leadership.
3. Effective use of government programs and services.
4. Increasing the effectiveness of educational efforts.

It is quite clear to the Committee that community and resource development programs must be carried out in close cooperation with state and local agencies, if these programs are to be effective. One of the main goals of the committee is to encourage state and local agencies to understand and use the services of federal agencies in the overall development of rural

Delaware. Most of the emphasis of the 1973 committee meetings was on the development of cooperative programs with state agencies so that rural Delaware would be better served by a combination of federal and state programs.

In FY 74 major emphasis will be on the RC&D program which includes all three counties in the state and was approved by the Secretary of Agriculture on May 24, 1973. The local people in the state, with considerable assistance from county resource development committees, have submitted more than 150 proposed measures in the project plan. Among those they included plans to:

1. Assist in the preservation of prime agricultural land.
2. Improve community facilities.
3. Encourage industrial development.
4. Improve drainage and control flooding.
5. Develop public recreation facilities.
6. Improve fish and wildlife habitat.
7. Promote better woodland management.

State and county committees will do all possible to assist local, state and federal agencies in developing and implementing the various project proposals as outlined in the state RC&D plan.

FLORIDA

The most important achievement of the Florida USDA Committee for Rural Development during 1973 probably was the welding of all agencies together in an integral attack on the problems of rural communities. The state Committee members presented a united front in encouraging county USDA councils to work more closely at the local level. By meeting jointly in training meetings for USDA workers, agency administrators demonstrated their solid support for rural development.

The Committee has a policy of encouraging local groups to initiate project activity and it is at the county level where major thrusts are made. This results in departmental resources being applied to the priority problems of the people affected by the programs.

Future plans of the state Committee include increased emphasis on the training of county personnel. Teams of agency administrators will follow formal training programs with intensive support for county programs.

The state Committee gave support and encouragement to county USDA councils in housing programs for low-income people, comprehensive planning, and programs of human resource development, including job training programs and development of local leaders. Progress at the county level was facilitated by unified support from the state Committee and coordinated efforts by the agencies to help each other perform their tasks in the best possible way.

GEORGIA

The Georgia State Rural Development Committee supports the concept of planning for the orderly growth of rural areas. Toward this end, the Committee has worked during FY 73 to bring all those concerned with rural growth closer together in thought and action. The goals and objectives of the Committee have been revised to more effectively reflect the thinking of the Committee in this direction.

The Committee endorses the concept of multi-county planning districts. Georgia has had a longer history of such districts than any other state and the results leave little doubt of their worth. The main concern of the Committee as we enter FY 74 is the difficulty of maintaining continuity in the planning processes from the local community level through the state level and thence to the national level. A second concern of the committee is that citizens and citizen-leaders be involved to the maximum extent possible in every step of the planning process.

Inter-agency cooperation, which is being fostered by rural development committees, will do much to alleviate both of these concerns.

HAWAII

Planning sessions have been held with county committees to discuss and determine specific projects they plan to undertake during the year.

A special subcommittee of the State Rural Development Committee developed a State Situation Statement and a format for describing proposed projects for implementation in the counties. Primary concern was how to work as a committee to establish goals worthy of a multi-agency effort. The following projects were identified:

Hawaii County

1. Developing an RC&D application.
2. Developing agricultural labor housing.
3. Developing sewage disposal for rural areas.

Maui County

1. Molokai readjustment.
2. Water development for agriculture and domestic use.

Oahu County

1. Alternate uses of land on Oahu.
2. Developing agricultural enterprises presently incompatible with urbanization.

Kauai County

1. Aquaculture - shrimp production.
2. Agricultural readjustment (papaya production).
3. Development of RC&D application.

IDAHO

The Committee has succeeded in enlarging representation by adding to its membership a top level representative of BLM who appears interested in the activities of the Committee and willing to cooperate. A regular representative of EPA will be added when the EPA office in Boise is opened. The Committee has been highly successful in coordinating the efforts of the individual member agencies and thereby effecting meaningful involvement with communities by supporting local and state efforts to:

1. Create multi-county agencies to serve planning and development regions in the state (a followup to last year's assistance in creation of the regions).
2. Salvage one multi-county agency after an unfortunate poor start.
3. Conduct a series of Governor's regional planning conferences which strengthened the COG movement in Idaho.
4. Develop a statewide land use policy.
5. Establish and support a statewide, cooperative effort with industry to address the problems of livestock waste disposal.

Plans for the next year include increasing local government capabilities to develop comprehensive land use plans; continued support of the effort to develop a state land use policy; continued effort to develop livestock waste management guides with which the livestock industry can live; and support of the newly created Bear Lake Regional Commission to attack the pollution problems of Bear Lake in Idaho and Utah.

ILLINOIS

A major goal of the State Rural Development Committee is to develop a cooperative rural development program with state government. A workshop was initiated by the state Committee and co-sponsored by relevant departments of state government, which resulted in the creation of the Governor's Cabinet for Rural Development on April 6, 1971. The state Committee met quarterly with representatives of state government until the change in administration in January, 1973. A second jointly sponsored state conference is planned for November, 1973.

The state Committee has designated three areas for a concentrated USDA agency rural development effort: the Two Rivers area of Western Illinois, the Shawnee area in Southern Illinois and the Kiswaukee area in Northern Illinois. The Two Rivers area has recently been designated as a RC&D project.

The state Committee is providing support to an Interagency Rural Water Quality Committee. This is developing a rural water quality program to be initiated in FY 74.

State Committee task forces are now being organized on land use, small community problems and forest resources.

INDIANA

The number one project of the Rural Development Committee was to assist in helping organize Regional Planning Commissions in the 14 Economic Development Regions of the state. First Rural Urban Advisory Committees were organized in the 14 regions. Their purpose was to work with local government officials and lay leaders in organizing the Regional Commissions. The state Committee assigned the chairman of the Regional Rural Development Committee as a member of the Rural Urban Advisory Committee. In FY 73, three regions established planning commissions; the other 11 regions will have planning commissions established in FY 74.

Other projects of the state Committee were Emergency Medical Service and Medicare Seminar and a Seminar on Sanitary Landfill and Sewage.

The Emergency Medical Seminar was attended by about 150 people from all sections of the state, since their regional rural development committees have made surveys of their regions on emergency medical service and landfills. In about 90 percent of the counties in Indiana, emergency service is furnished by funeral homes. There has been a lot of enthusiasm generated by local regional committees. The secretary of the state Committee was asked to chair a workshop at the Governor's meeting on Aging and Aged on rural emergency medical needs. Later the Governor held a state meeting on emergency service.

IOWA

The Iowa State-USDA Rural Development Committee remained an active organization and facilitated inter-agency communication and cooperation. Because of its linkage with the Governor's Rural Policy Council and the Office of Planning and Programming (Governor's planning office), the Committee could make input to the planning and implementation of programs throughout state government.

For FY 74, the state Committee intends to build relationships with the now-forming Regional Planning Commissions, including training and liaison relationships. The Committee will organize a training conference for its own middle management personnel on regional planning commissions, their organization, role and function.

The Committee will continue work on and develop a report on Iowa Land Use and Land Use Planning.

KANSAS

Early in FY 73, the Kansas USDA Committee for Rural Development decided the grassroots staff needed training and back-up materials for comprehensive planning. Three series of training schools and seven publications were planned. In addition, two special subject matter series meetings were conducted for USDA staff.

The first series of training meetings was on the basic understanding of federal and state laws covering rural development and comprehensive planning. The state Committee trained the middle management staff of USDA agencies who then trained the county USDA agency staff members. The Kansas Department of Economic Development and Kansas League of Municipalities assisted with the middle management training school.

The second series of training meetings was held by economic regions within the state, and covered conservation, tillage and cropping systems and range and pasture management. The video-cassette process was used in this series.

As plans developed for these training meetings, it became apparent certain documents and publications were needed as guidelines and back-up materials for use by local level USDA staff.

The following materials were developed, printed and used by the State Committee in the series of training schools:

"Kansas Situation Report for Rural Development" - discusses human resources available and problems; natural resources and uses; gives statistics for Kansas.

"A Guide for Developing a Regional Planning and Development Commission" - outlines ways of assisting local groups to organize and activate planning groups.

"Long-Range Objectives and Goals for Rural Development" - sets forth long-range objectives and goals for rural development in the state. To be used by regional and county committees for guidelines as related to local problems.

"State Plan of Work - 1973" - sets forth the annual goals of the state Rural Development Committee.

"Regional Plan of Work - 1974" - outline model for guidance of middle management staff when developing regional plans for the year. Each region will submit a plan to the state Committee.

"County Plan of Work - 1974" - outline and model for guidance of county committees when developing plans for the year. Each county will submit a plan to the state Committee.

"Intercom" - monthly newsletter, published by the state Committee. Distributed to all members of the state, regional and county committees.

KENTUCKY

The Committee adopted as its definition of rural development: "Making rural Kentucky a better place to live and work." In support of this goal, the Committee developed and distributed a definitive position statement concerning rural development. It provides a basis for both long-range and short-term plans and actions.

The Committee cooperated with the Kentucky Development Committee in informational and educational forums dealing with the energy situation, the Rural Development Act of 1972, and the economic and environmental aspects of development in West Kentucky.

For FY 74, the Committee adopted a plan for action toward reaching these objectives:

1. Assist in the development of guidelines for formulation of land use policy in the state and work with and through state government to realize considerations of these guidelines in the development of state policy and programs.

2. Assist in promoting and achieving an understanding and in determining the applicability of the guidelines prepared for the implementation of the Rural Development Act of 1972.

3. Take action to improve the working relationships of federal, state and local agencies and groups to result in a mutually acceptable approach to people's needs for technical assistance on various RD concerns.

4. Take steps to assist local people and communities to more specifically articulate their needs associated with rural development.

LOUISIANA

The Louisiana Rural Development Committee is composed of 21 members and meets quarterly. The Committee has established six working committees with a total membership of approximately 125 persons. The combined membership of the state Committee and the working committees make up the Louisiana Rural Development Council.

Among other activities, the Committee hears reports from one or more of the working committees as its quarterly meetings. The state Committee endorses some projects and lends whatever support is necessary for success.

The Council meets quarterly also. The state Committee plans the agenda. The meetings are held in various areas of the state in cooperation with the nonmetropolitan planning districts. The agenda usually includes a parish rural development commiteee report and a report from the planning district. The parish committee members from the district are invited to attend the meeting. This keeps them in touch with the state Committee and the local nonmetropolitan planning district program.

Each working committee has regular meetings and plans activities or material that will support and strengthen local committee activities.

The state Committee will continue to give leadership in developing community structures for more effective citizen participation in community development. The leadership and problem identification survey will continue to receive high priority. The working committees will continue to develop materials and activities that will strengthen the local effort in rural development.

MAINE

The Maine State USDA Rural Development Committee does not itself function as an action group in carrying out as a committee specific rural development projects and activities. It provides assistance when requested and coordination when required by area and county rural development committees which provide the direct service to local groups in carrying out specific rural development projects and activities.

Among the activities in which one or more agencies represented on the state, area or county committees have been involved include: local and regional planning, animal manure disposal guidelines, solid waste disposal, recreation developments, small town sewer and water facilities, housing, conservation commissions, lake improvement associations, agricultural land valuation, zoning of shoreland areas, coastal land stabilization, flood prevention measures, business site locations, coordinated health care, occupational safety and health act, marine resources development and expanded rural telephone service.

MARYLAND

FY 73 lent credence to the statement made in the FY 72 report that groundwork laid in the early years of the Maryland Rural Affairs Council will continue to pay dividends in the future. During this year membership at the state and local committee levels has become more representative of the myriad interest concerned with rural Maryland. It is planned that membership will become even more representative in the year ahead. FY 73 saw the Council co-sponsor a seminar series on land use and participate in other forums and information dissemination activities. The Council feels these educational kinds of activities imperative to its efforts.

During this year MRAC and its regional committee in Southern Maryland recommended, and witnessed the approval of, increased Department of Natural Resources funds for manpower in the region. In an effort to gauge attitudes toward balanced development in the state, MRAC conducted a mini-survey which resulted in specific implications for Council programming. Other activities ranged from donating a Christmas turkey to needy folks in Western Maryland, to consideration of implementation of the new Rural Development Act.

It is activities such as these, both visible and not-so-visible, upon which MRAC hopes to continue to prove itself a catalyst for progress in rural Maryland.

MASSACHUSETTS

The densely populated state of Massachusetts provides community resource development opportunities considerably different from the Midwest and other sections of the country. Rather than assisting limited communities with primary organizational problems, the work this year has focused upon broad planning regions, frequently multi-county, and largely in the areas of land use planning, environmental quality control, housing, landscape management and seashore improvement. The organizational base already exists and it remains for the agencies to provide an educational frame followed by technical assistance. The state Committee has functioned very successfully in providing an informational exchange for the governmental and private organizations represented. Among the outstanding accomplishments of the year was the development of several natural resource statements providing intensive analysis of a region and thereby providing a reference for political land-use decisions. As an extension of this tool, local community leadership has been brought together to both help gather the primary data and to discuss the alternative land uses.

In the area of environmental quality and landscape management, a series of leadership conferences have been held. These have brought together outstanding authorities in an atmosphere where open discussion could be realized and where the decision makers could be directly involved.

Generally the state Committee has provided an extremely effective liaison function in enabling the many agencies to perform successfully in the community and rural development field.

MICHIGAN

The Michigan USDA Rural Development Committee was operating under somewhat of a handicap this past year as the Michigan Governor's Committee on Rural Development underwent many changes and a complete reorganization. The Committee tried to gear its efforts to complement the total program.

The Committee did accomplish some significant goals. The following are some of the priority thrusts:

1. Developing complementary goals and working relationships with the multi-county planning and development districts was a high priority, and good progress is being made. Pilot districts have been selected to give concentrated efforts by the USDA agencies and planning and development districts. Cooperative projects have been selected and conducted. Waste management and improving concepts of multi-county planning are the most significant.
2. Michigan has a specially funded manpower program. Four counties are receiving concentrated attention and more than 12 other counties are getting project-by-project assistance. Work with high school

seniors and seasonal labor groups and employee training and improved job information have resulted in many additional job placements in the new employees community. Many agencies are involved in developing better systems to improve job opportunities in home communities.

3. Cooperative Extension, working with many other entities of state and local government organizations, developed a set of regional fact books. These 13 books coincide with the 13 organized and proposed planning and development districts. The facts are selected census materials most usable for local multi-county planning and programming. Distribution was made to officials and leaders through several responsible organizations concerned about rural America. Our best estimates of printing numbers have been far short of the demand.

4. Appropriate housing is a problem in most rural communities. In the Northern Lower Peninsula, a series of three meetings in four locations was conducted by several cooperating agencies. Good attendance was maintained. Many different components of the home building industry are better informed. Some very inadequate housing situations should improve.

The Committee is looking forward to cooperative efforts with the newly organized Governor's Council.

MINNESOTA

The Minnesota USDA Rural Development program for FY 73 resulted in closer state-federal agency understanding and cooperation.

The initiative taken by the state Committee in contacting state agency heads and searching for methods of working together for the benefit of rural areas was of considerable importance. In some instances the contacts were first ever, and in most instances contact will continue into the future. The relationships started at the state level will develop among the regional personnel of these state and federal agencies and effectively increase communication and reduce duplication, but increase responsiveness of agency services to community development groups.

There will be increased work with the Governor's Rural Development Advisory Council and state-federal coordination at the agency head level. These efforts will concentrate on searching for new and better methods of state-federal response to local developmental group searches for resources to assist local efforts to upgrade community services and facilities.

MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Rural Development Committee was organized in 1970. Subsequently, all 82 counties of Mississippi organized county development committees. It is the consensus of the state Committee that its primary role is to suggest programs, projects and activities to county committees. The state Committee also feels that it should provide background information and technical assistance to the county committees.

The state Committee selected three areas which it thought deserved primary attention. The county committees in most counties concurred and have worked on one or more of the subject matter areas. The subject matter areas include (1) housing, (2) job opportunities and (3) natural resource use and soil conservation. During FY 73, the state Committee continued to emphasize the three areas and county committees continued to initiate projects and activities in their respective counties.

During FY 73, the state Committee expanded its membership to include state and local agencies. New members include (1) L. L. Hart, Director, Exmployment Service Division, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, (2) John M. King, Executive Director, Mississippi Park Commission, (3) Howard Langfitt, Executive Manager, Electric Power Association of Mississippi and (4) Kenneth C. Wagner, Director, Mississippi Research and Development Center.

The state Committee is awaiting the final instructions and funding of the Rural Development Act of 1972 so that it can initiate additional activities and conduct some pilot programs in rural development in selected areas of the state.

MISSOURI

The Missouri USDA Rural Development Committee has felt from the beginning that rural development is a process rather than a program.

Funds from federal sources for rural development have been in the form of support for organic ongoing agency programs rather than "add on" rural development funding. One exception has been a small additional amount allocated to Cooperative Extension Service. Rural development efforts have, therefore, been made by setting priorities on projects in the state for expenditures of existing resources so as to achieve rural development objectives.

Committees at both state and local levels have been invaluable mechanisms for:

1. Developing and continuing a two-way communication between local, state and federal agencies.
2. Identifying developmental concerns and opportunities and setting priorities on them.
3. Focusing the joint or concerted efforts of two or more agencies on the concerns thus identified.

After the committees have performed these functions, the specific action or project becomes the responsibility of the agency taking the lead in implementing it. It is seldom identified as a "rural development" effort.

We realize this does not secure visibility for, or recognition of, "rural development" by the general public. We do think it has been the most effective way to spend our time in attempting optimum service to the people of Missouri.

If the Rural Development Act of 1972 is funded adequately it could provide the vehicle for identification of a specific "rural development" program.

MONTANA

The Montana State USDA Committee for Rural Development, now known as the Rural Development Committee, aided and assisted many programs geared toward rural development during FY 73. While the Committee is not necessarily an action committee, the Committee members represent many action agencies.

Perhaps the greatest accomplishments of the Committee during the year can be defined as leadership at the state level and assisting people at the local level to recognize their problems of development and to motivate action. In addition, programs available from various USDA agencies were made known. Cooperation and identification of problem areas really sum up the year's work. This role was also fulfilled at the state level in cooperation with heads of state agencies who are rapidly becoming more involved with rural development.

The work of this Committee as we move toward "New Federalism" should be ever expanding and of greater need to state and local government as time progresses. In other words, we expect to do more and to do it better.

NEBRASKA

A state plan of work was published including 15 areas of emphasis. They are: (1) communications, (2) adjustments in agriculture, (3) farm income, (4) agri-business, (5) rural housing, (6) planning and zoning, (7) pollution, (8) transportation, (9) control of undersirable plants and insects, (10) soil-land-water, (11) rural water, (12) rural credit, (13) woodland resources, (14) outdoor recreation and (15) improving and protecting the landscape.

Each of the 26 area RD committees chose one or more of the plan areas for emphasis.

A revision of the state plan has been started and will be completed in FY 74.

An out-state meeting of the state Committee was held in conjunction with the Area 7 Committee in Southeast Nebraska and the Council of Governments (COG). This served to give more visibility to the COG as well as USDA rural development efforts.

The Nebraska Committee increased its membership by two with the addition of representatives of Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and ERS.

An emphasis on health was added by a presentation to the committee by Calista Hughes, State Director of Comprehensive Health Planning.

NEVADA

The State Rural Development Committee views itself as a coordinating committee. It does not view itself as an agency performing specific tasks that may be undertaken by state or federal agencies. The committee feels that the objectives of coordinating efforts of USDA agencies in youth involvement, multi-county planning and land-use planning are being met. Because of the problems in Nevada of land speculation which leave communities financially responsible for a developer's projects and an inadequate rural health care delivery system, special effort will be made by the Committee and the Nevada Resource Action Councils to coordinate the programs of the state and federal agencies involved in these problems.

The Committee will also keep itself informed about the energy crisis so as to take collective action, if needed, to try to insure adequate supplies of fuel to the agricultural producers of Nevada. The Committee views some of the other activities, such as Agricultural Image and Community Pride, as ongoing projects to be acted upon throughout the year.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire Resources Development Executive Committee has a major role in the state in helping local people to understand their needs and determine their goals. It has become the recognized mechanism in the state for channeling information and technical assistance to individuals and communities. It serves as the focal point for coordinating and stimulating the community development process.

The Committee will continue to assist "grass roots" leaders and groups in understanding and applying the community development process and in utilizing the resource delivery system of USDA agencies, other federal agencies and state agencies. Emphasis will be placed on previously identified needs at the local level - housing, comprehensive planning, leadership development and community facilities and services. Through discussion with the CRD Contact Agents and others, the following have been identified as specific rural development areas for future emphasis: adult training and retraining because of changing job requirements and opportunities, maintenance and improvement of rural health care and delivery systems, problems of the elderly and involvement of the elderly in the community development process, and problems associated with the changing population mix in communities.

NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey State Resource Development Committee passed its third birthday last December. Quarterly meetings are held with excellent representation from federal, regional and state agencies. The principal goal of this Committee is to serve the agencies represented in a liaison-communications capacity. Innovative resource development programs are communicated via the respective agency concerned.

It is anticipated that major attention this coming year will be focused on:

1. The Sussex - Warren proposed RC&D project.
2. Educational programs to explain the Blueprint for Agriculture Committee report and other land use programs.
3. The annual Rural Resources Day in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture
4. The Environmental Thrust Program.

NEW MEXICO

Due to changes that have been occurring and shifts in responsibility, the state Committee has undergone some reorganization.

First, the Committee now fully recognizes counterparts assigned as alternate members that will act in full capacity in the absence of the regular member.

Second, the presently structured USDA district rural development committees will be reformed into district rural development teams. Principal objective of the RD teams will be to serve as resource specialists for numerous ongoing RD organizations. Boundary lines and personnel for the seven teams will be identical with state planning districts.

The recommended approach would eliminate duplication of effort and fulfill responsibilities assigned by Secretary's Memorandum 1665 with respect to RC&D Projects, and Secretary's Memorandum 1667 for rural areas development.

The role of the state Committee is to provide ongoing RD organizations in New Mexico with pertinent information through district RD teams. The seven RD teams will make themselves available to RD organizations within their respective areas on an ad hoc basis to provide professional expertise, technical services and substantive programs.

There are to be no regularly scheduled meetings for the teams. The team chairman will submit a brief narrative report to the state Committee as requested by its chairman and to report a significant RD activity within the district.

Along with the reorganization, the state Committee also revised its long-range objectives as follows:

1. To aid in creating an awareness and an understanding of the significance of growth in the social, economic and cultural development of rural New Mexico.

2. To motivate agencies, groups, individuals and communities to help themselves to develop rural New Mexico.
3. Through individual agency interaction, provide factual information to help agencies, groups, individuals and communities in developing rural New Mexico.
4. To make recommendations - when appropriate - to agencies, groups, individuals and communities to aid in the development of rural New Mexico.
5. To encourage interagency coordination and respect necessary to enhance the development of the people of New Mexico.
6. To assist USDA teams in their efforts to promote rural development in New Mexico.

NEW YORK

In the past 12 months, despite uncertainty over the status of the Rural Development Act and the committee's role in its administration, we have been more active, with a greater sense of purpose and direction than at any time in the three years of our existence.

Aided by a successful statewide rural development conference last fall and a highly productive meeting with the Governor this January, member agencies are sincerely involved, strengthening the committee concept at both state and regional levels.

The goal for the future is essentially the same as in the past: To create an atmosphere of cooperation among agencies that will allow most comprehensive assistance to be made available to rural communities seeking to improve their economic, social and environmental well being.

In the coming year the committee will seek to assure that this spirit of cooperation will prevail as the various member agencies initiate implementation of the Rural Development Act. Additionally, the committee will seek to continue and expand the current dialogue with the office of the Governor in an effort to insure the development of the most appropriate state policies and programs for our rural communities and their residents.

NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Rural Development Committee in FY 73 focused its efforts on improving health care and environmental quality. To assist the state Committee in improving and expanding health care for rural citizens, a state task force on rural health with 45 representatives from private agencies, three institutions of higher education and state, local and federal governments has been organized. Three work groups within the task force have been established to work on: (1) improving the delivery of health services, (2) improving preventive health care and health maintenance practices and (3) developing strategies and procedures for improving rural health services.

Considerable efforts were made during the past year to improve environmental quality. An educational packet on "Land-Use Planning in North Carolina" was developed, including a slide-tape program, a series of five educational leaflets and a guide for local leaders. A series of six leaflets on animal and poultry waste disposal was prepared and information and counsel provided the state legislature in considering legislation on this topic. A slide-tape program was developed on junk car removal and recycling.

The 99 county rural development panels assisted local leaders in numerous activities on environmental quality, economic development, education and job training and developing community services.

NORTH DAKOTA

The following major activities were achieved specifically as a result of actions taken by the state RD Committee:

1. Assisted in the promotion and coordination of multi-county RD planning. Result: RC&D councils have actively organized in seven of the eight multi-county planning regions.

2. Developed communications among federal, state and local agencies to improve coordination of objectives and efforts in rural development. Results:

   a. Developed a situation statement of North Dakota Rural Development for the '70s. The statement was used by the Old West Commission.

   b. Developed contact with leaders of youth groups in North Dakota. Outlined program to involve youth in county resource development.

   c. Developed working relationships with the state planning division and North Dakota State University and served in an active role with the Little Missouri Grasslands study.

3. The state Committee's planned goals and objectives for the future are to:

   a. Promote coordination to assist in the development of local, county, multi-county and state land use plans.

   b. Expand participation in state and county rural development to include representatives of minority groups, women and special interest groups.

   c. Maintain communication among agencies represented on state and county RD committees and between the committees and other agencies and organizations.

OHIO

The principal achievement of the State Committee for Ohio Rural Development has been one of providing a mechanism for federal and state agencies involved in rural development to mutually determine opportunities for most effectively working together. Actual carrying out of activities often is done by individual agencies.

The pilot project for rural development was the focal point for many activities of the state Committee during the past year. Informing the public about the need to consider land use needs and establishing an effective land use policy for Ohio also were emphasized. Materials prepared and distributed by the state Committee were used in literally every county throughout Ohio by local committees in telling the story of how the future development of Ohio must more effectively consider the land.

In FY 74 the state Committee will focus on the following major projects:

1. Give direction to the I 70/77 pilot project.
2. Provide a major input into a program of informing the public on land use considerations.
3. Determine ways of becoming more effectively involved in the multi-county economic development opportunities resulting from the construction of a generating plant and the opening of a new major coal mine operation involving a multi-county area in Southeastern Ohio. The state Committee will work closely with and through a recently formed area USDA committee to enhance economic development.
4. Work in every way possible with programs that will be conducted as the result of the implementation of the Rural Development Act of 1972.

OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma USDA Rural Development Committee - well into its fourth year of organization - has developed into a close-knit, hard-working, objective committee. The Committee has met regularly once a month with the exception of the month of August, and has taken the lead in a number of efforts.

The major thrust during this past fiscal year was the stimulation of the development of county development councils by the county USDA RD committees. In order that they do a more effective job in leadership identification, orientation and organization of county development councils, the state Committee, through its program development and training subcommittee, provided a number of intensive training workshops for members of county committees. Throughout this process, the Committee, working through its district committees, attempted to establish a more effective working liaison with the sub-state planning districts and other organizations involved in rural development in Oklahoma.

Another major specific thrust area involved activities concerned with the environment; more specifically, solid waste disposal seminars and other informational programs. Through the task force or subcommittee on environmental concerns, a number of workshops and seminars were held on solid waste disposal costs, methods and systems.

The state Committee has found that, by meeting as a committee occasionally with the district and county committees, a better understanding of the rural development effort can be established. Consequently, the Committee has been meeting about three to four times a year in the various districts of the state in order to provide this understanding. Over a period of about three years, the Committee will have met with each county and district committee.

It appears that as a result of the close working relationship established by the Committee, the joint project efforts of personnel of two or more agencies have increased. In addition, referrals from one agency to another have also increased.

In summary, the total rural development effort in Oklahoma has resulted in the involvement of a great number of agencies and individuals and has enhanced their understanding of the USDA rural development effort. These agencies and individuals include the agricultural agencies at the state Committee level, the district personnel, county representatives of each of the USDA agencies, the representatives of the Office of Community Affairs and Planning from the Governor's Office, and the 15 to 25 lay citizens in each county who make up the county development council. It is anticipated that this involvement, understanding and input will enhance the efforts and help provide for a better place in which the people of Oklahoma can live, work and enjoy life.

OREGON

Achievements of the Oregon State Rural Development Committee can best be summarized in the areas of local government development and involvement and the establishment of an environment conducive to a better life.

For the future the State Committee will continue to work with local and state governments in the development of regional comprehensive plans, plans for future growth and in the area of environmental assessment.

The committee is becoming increasingly concerned with providing resources to continue a program that will clearly relate to people's problems throughout the rural areas of the state.

It is also within the plans of the Committee that it will establish a citizens committee to work with the state Committee in formulating and implementing plans and programs that truly reflect the wishes of the people. This effort will also be extended to the various area and county-wide communities now operating within the state.

PENNSYLVANIA

Data on Hurricane "Agnes" damage was obtained through USDA agencies, emergency boards, etc., and recapped by county, by category, etc.

This authoritative information was relied upon by other federal and state departments, the Office of Emergency Preparedness, the Federal Regional Council and others for budgetary purposes.

One meeting with the Pennsylvania Medical Society resulted in the assurance that the 60 county medical societies would be alerted to work with county RD Committees.

Meetings were held with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, Township Supervisors, and County Commissioners relative to the Rural Development Act of 1972 so as to provide a line of communications with elected officials. A meeting was held with the Agricultural Committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate in joint session at a time when they were considering legislation following "Agnes."

The establishment and maintenance of lines of communication between the state Committee and others involved with community improvement is paramount. Study opportunities for rural development as well as problem areas will be identified and incorporated into training activities for district and county Committees so as to help them "find the handle."

PUERTO RICO

The Puerto Rico USDA RD Committee undertook 21 activities in the area of community services and facilities in FY 73. In two communities, for example, 125 families and 500 students had inadequate water facilities. The situation was discussed by the Committee, community leaders and citizens. In a common effort, the municipal authorities were contacted. Economic aid was granted on construction of an aqueduct, with Extension providing technical advice. In another community, the Committee spearheaded an effort to correct water contamination which was causing a health problem.

The Committee also undertook the following numbers of activities by thrust areas: organization and leadership development, 2; housing, 2; health and welfare, 2; recreation and tourism, 6; environmental improvement, 1 and rural cooperatives, 2.

RHODE ISLAND

During FY 73 the Rhode Island Community Development Committee focused on support of fledgling organizations, careful self examination of its own direction, and development of a plan of operation compatible with communities' perceptions of their own needs.

In connection with the first point, the Committee supplied technical assisstance to the drafters of the Rhode Island RC&D Project Plan. Further, many members of the Committee served as advisors to the various resource committees established by the RC&D Executive Council.

A Natural Resource Subcommittee was formed to assist communities in planning the use of their natural resource base. The subcommittee's first undertaking involves helping the City of Cranston assess the potential flood hazard associated with various levels of development in a 1,200 acre watershed.

Finally, considerable effort was devoted to providing the membership with a better understanding of the functions of the member organizations, surveying community leaders as to their perceptions of local needs and discussing the future role and function of the Committee in addressing these needs. The end product of these efforts was a plan of operation with well-defined areas of concern encompassing the relevant subject areas. One or more agency will take the leadership for each item in the plan.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The major focus of RD efforts in South Carolina should be on providing community facilities and services. Improved facilities and services in rural communities are critical to raising the quality of living by (1) providing directly to consumers some services that would not otherwise be available and (2) providing essential services for industries that would not otherwise be willing to locate in rural areas. Since these are considered to be the limiting factors in further development of rural areas, more state and local funds should be devoted to this program thrust.

Rural development is a continuing process which may be accelerated by the current emphasis on providing reasonable alternatives to urban locations of both industry and people. However, there is a potential danger in rapid development of rural areas. Without careful planning to reduce the rapid encroachment of housing, industrial sites and the business establishments which serve them on the high quality agricultural land (which from a private point of view is the most desirable as sites for these intensive uses of land), we could easily find in a few years that we have made essentially the same mistake with land that we have already made with air and water -- having plenty available but with some serious problems of quality.

If shortages in farmland do occur, the situation can be alleviated by: (1) adapting or developing technology of food production for more intensive use of land and for production on the lower qualities of land still available and/or (2) reclaiming high quality land that was previously developed, as soon as buildings were sufficiently dilapidated to justify removal. Besides being slow, either of these methods of expanding use or quantity of farmland would be more expensive than prevention of the problem.

Another critical factor in rural development is the lack of motivation and leadership in rural areas. Much of the leadership does not exhibit adequate interest or knowledge of community projects. Rural areas have an ample number of successful people who lead by individual example, but community projects generally suffer from lack of interest or even direct opposition.

Two efforts are needed to help overcome this problem. Adult leadership training in community development should be offered to acquaint non-professional leaders and potential leaders in the community development aspects of community relations, public decision making, the roles of agencies, organized groups and elected officials in community development, how to analyze community needs, determine priorities and solve community problems. This is the short-run solution to scarcity of rural leadership.

Another effort needed is the education and involvement of youth in community development. Some training and pilot work has already been initiated. Training for teachers and other youth educators should be provided to get formal classroom training of youth in the various aspects of community development. The youth education programs will provide short-run and long-run help in leadership for rural development.

We feel that a concentrated effort on these four critical aspects of rural development would make a premier rural development project. We definitely want to try such an approach.

SOUTH DAKOTA

During FY 73 there was an expansion in the number of planning districts in South Dakota. The state is divided into six regional planning districts, five of which are fully activated. Each district office will develop various modules or components for a district-wide comprehensive plan. The state USDA Committee for Rural Development has established a district USDA RD committee in four of the planning districts. We are in the process of setting up the fifth committee in the most recently-formulated district. The state Committee improved its communications and working relationships with the South Dakota State Planning Agency by meeting with the Governor and his staff and through better liaison between the district committee and the regional planning district directors.

The state Committee emphasized the need for rural youth to become involved in rural development. Members of the Committee participated in a rural development symposium at the state capitol in February, 1973. There was a healthy exchange of ideas between 150 youth in attendance and the state Committee. The youth chose to relate to RD in South Dakota through BOSDC (Building our South Dakota Communities). Forty-two of the 51 FFA chapters submitted outstanding projects for improvements in local communities. The Committee members were also resource speakers for the first rural youth leadership course sponsored by the FFA in June, 1973.

In FY 74, we will emphasize coordinating and planning with the Governor, the State Planning Agency and local governmental units in the implementation of the Rural Development Act of 1972. We are also in the process of selecting people to study land-use planning. Getting people to accept the idea of land use planning is the first consideration.

TENNESSEE

The Tennessee State Rural Development Committee has as its major thrusts five areas. They are:

1. Implementation of course of action for 1973.
2. Education and training program relating to Rural Development Act of 1972.
3. Completion of and publishing "An Appraisal of Potentials for Outdoor Recreation Development in Tennessee, 1972."
4. Strengthening leadership of regional and county rural development committees.
5. Improving communication among agencies concerned with making rural Tennessee a better place to live and work.

The nine district meetings jointly sponsored by the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee County Service Association and Tennessee Municipal League, with many cooperating agencies and organizations, including the state Committee, provided an opportunity for statewide training on the provisions of the Rural Development Act.

Paul Koger, vice chairman of the state Committee and Director of FHA and M. Gist Welling, Agricultural Extension Service and secretary of the state Committee, developed a presentation and led the workshop sessions on the RD Act of 1972, which was attended by over 1,100 key leaders, including USDA representatives, judges, magistrates, squires, mayors, other local government leadership, district development staff and others concerned with rural development.

Copies of the fact sheet developed on the Rural Development Act were widely distributed throughout the state. Many discussions were held with the eight regional committees and the 95 county committees, utilizing the information to better inform local people concerning the provisions of the Rural Development Act.

TEXAS

Activities of the Texas USDA Rural Development Committee:

1. Planned and conducted Minority Business Development Workshops.

2. Assisted county committees from 15 contiguous counties to initiate a feasibility study related to swine marketing. As a result of this study, local businessmen and a major meat packer have consummated agreements to build and operate a 1,300 head-per-day swine slaughter facility. This plant will employ 100 workers and provide a market for swine producers in the 15-county area.

3. A study by the Committee revealed a need for risk credit in rural areas for industrial growth. The texas Rural Industrial Development Act, which authorizes the Texas Industrial Commission to

make loans, was passed and funded at $600,000. Under this authority, loans can be made for any kind of business development in rural areas of the state.

4. The Rural Industrial Revenue Bond Act, authorizing cities, towns and water districts to issue revenue bonds for industrial development, is now available for use. McAllen, Texas is currently issuing between $2 1/2 and $3 million in revenue bonds for construction of a manufacturing facility for Levi Strauss which will employ 500 workers with an annual payroll of about $3 1/2 million.

UTAH

The Utah State Rural Development Committee, by working closely with numerous other organizations, institutions and groups, has successfully helped expand and improve planning efforts in the state. Excellent progress has been made in land use planning. There is a great awareness as to the necessity for planning and local leaders now recognize the multiple resources available from the various agencies.

Efforts to improve the image of agriculture as a promoter of good environment have been successful. The importance of analyzing the environmental impact of proposed new projects, whether they be subdivisions, industry or recreational sites, is receiving additional recognition. Some outstanding district committee efforts have accelerated improvement in this area.

Working together and pooling ideas and resources to accomplish agreed-upon common goals has made tremendous improvement in inter-agency relationships. Gone are jealousies and rivalries which formerly inhibited cooperation and promoted duplication.

During the coming year, efforts will be made to raise the level of accomplishment of all district committees so that all are functioning in a manner similar to that of the present superior committees.

Efforts will be made to combine and restructure our present task forces to better emphasize national rural development thrusts.

We feel that it is essential to get greater youth involvement in rural development. This, too, will be one of our goals.

VERMONT

Activities of the Vermont Rural Development Committee:

1. The development of an annual plan of work which provided an excellent framework for committee activities.

2. The organization of two rural development workshops held in two different locations in the state for professional improvement of area rural development committees and related agencies. Both

workshops were held during April with a focus on the function of rural development committees, the community resource development process, and the process and composition of effective committees.

3. The state Committee promoted and fostered the work of natural resource technical teams as a viable interagency approach for solving natural resource problems. Sample technical team projects include the development of a town plan primarily based on the natural resources of the community and the completion of the Route 4 study which is a cooperative experiment of the state and local agencies in highway planning. The emphasis of this study is maximum input of citizen participation in the beginning stages of highway construction planning and a complete survey of alternatives.

4. A subcommittee of the state Committee was appointed to study and make recommendations to the state legislature for a comprehensive flood plain management program. Previous legislatures had considered a number of flood plain management proposals, yet none was found suitable to a majority of legislators. The subcommittee's proposal was not passed this year due to legislative priorities.

VIRGINIA

A most important accomplishment of the State Rural Development Committee is coordinating resources of USDA and state agencies within state government.

Effective working relationships have resulted with planning district commissions, as well as with the Division of State Planning and Community Affairs. The efforts of the state Committee are coordinated with and through the Virginia Resources Council to relate information and resources to program priorities throughout the state. This structure provides for effective communication within agencies to the local levels where priority programs and projects are emphasized by individual agencies.

Through cooperative efforts with the Virginia Resources Council, effective results have been obtained in the delivery of manpower programs to selected rural communities.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

In summarizing the activities of the VIRD Committee, the consensus is that in actuality most of the accomplishments attained, when attained, have been the direct results of the individual agencies in carrying out their various agency assignments and not by the VIRD Committee as a committee.

One of the basic prerequisites necessary for more active involvement in RD, and which is recognized by the VIRD Committee, is the fact that the agencies represented in the subcommittee appointed by the VIRD Committee need to become more involved, through more active participation as a subcommittee, with the VIRD Committee as a whole; and not solely with the individual agencies which comprise the overall VIRD committee.

WASHINGTON

Emphasis during the past year in Washington was on getting the four regional middle management rural development committees and the 38 county rural development committees expanded and operating more effectively. The state Committee established meeting places in each of the four regions and met at least twice during the year with members of each regional committee to discuss county committee plans, operations, progress and problems. Thus, many of the agency field supervisory personnel received direct communication from personal contact with plans and operations of the state Committee.

Also, new and younger replacements on the state Committee by some agencies has done much to improve the attitude, commitment and performance of the Committee as a whole toward rural development in the state.

In response to a plea from counties for more specific program guidance, the focus of attention is now on land-use planning in its broadest context. Nearly all agency staff members are vigorously attacking this problem and have expressed a commitment to solving it. The state Committee recognized that the rural development land-use planning issue might lead to discussing and acting upon other related issues such as pollution abatement, population management or distribution and energy uses.

WEST VIRGINIA

The West Virginia Rural Development Council, representing 20 federal, state and local organizations, utilized 11 task committees and 53 county committees to enjoy a successful year.

The most significant change for our State Council has been the addition of six new members: Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors Association, Council of Towns and Cities, Association of County Officials, Chamber of Commerce, Bankers Association and Home Builders Association.

A highlight was West Virginia's first Land Use Conference, sponsored by the state Council and nine other groups and organizations. Over 200 attended. Results were an awareness of the need for better land use planning and an established framework for future activities.

A two-day Econ-Environmental Seminar, sponsored by the state Council, was also outstanding. Approximately 60 invited representatives participated. We achieved a meaningful dialogue toward an approach to workable solutions to economic and environmental conflicts.

The state Council and county committees were responsible for much of the success of state legislation and authorization for $200 million for better school buildings in West Virginia.

County rural development committees worked hard, but were unsuccessful in realizing statewide solid waste legislation. We plan to give this high priority next year.

Conservation education, air pollution, tree planting, junk car removal, vocational education and stream improvement made great strides as a result of the efforts of active task committees, in cooperation with county committees.

WISCONSIN

The major activity of the Wisconsin Rural Development Council during the past year has dealt with reorganization and redefinition of the broad purposes and misssions of the Council. A task force was appointed to prepare such a statement for review and action by total Council membership.

Goals of the State Council were (1) to develop greater involvement of state agencies and state elected officials, (2) to involve more federal agencies other than USDA and (3) to have direct involvement of representatives of statewide citizen organizations, such as the Wisconsin Association of Manufacturers, Junior Chamber of Commerce, farm organizations and others. The entire list totals approximately 25.

The new proposed charter was adopted in principle officially in November, 1972. Consequently, a new State Council Executive Committee was elected which includes federal agencies, state agencies, the state legislature and a statewide citizen organization. The immediate task for the new Executive Committee has been refining the proposed charter and implementing a new program of work.

Four statewide Council meetings per year are planned. These will be conducted on a workshop basis with several major problem topics of discussion and action. Agencies which are members of the state Council will serve as technical resource people in planning and conducting the quarterly Council meetings.

Major time will be devoted to reacting to and acting on problems and questions referred to the state Council from county Councils. County councils will receive complete reports on the quarterly state Council meetings. The state Council will provide organizational and technical assistance directly to county councils on request.

WYOMING

The Wyoming USDA Rural Development Council has functioned as (1) a forum for discussion of rural problems and (2) a coordinating body bringing together the many diverse interests and resources available for rural development.

Geographically, the committee has concentrated its greatest interests in Star Valley, Lincoln County. The area's major economy has been based on dairying and Swiss cheese manufacturing. It is undergoing the forces and changes of development as a tourist and resort area, some outward migration of people and reorganization of agriculture.

Extension Service, FHA, SCS, ASCS, the Southwest Wyoming RC&D organization, local businessmen and agricultural leaders have been active in educational, organizational and promotional activities directed to the area's problems. Problems dealt with have included reorganization and rehabilitation of irrigation systems, assistance in increasing production and efficiency of crops and milk, management assistance in the cooperative cheese plant, conducting an economic base study, relating interaction of the various economic sectors of the Valley and public meetings called to deal with problems of land use, planning and environmental concerns. The attitude of the community toward agriculture has changed to optimism.

Further statewide problems discussed have included:

1. The role of the state Rural Development Council.
2. Land use planning and zoning.
3. Industrial development in the agri-business sector.
4. Environmental concerns affecting agricultural producers and processors.
5. Implementation of the 1972 Rural Development Act.
6. Public education activities directing action to agricultural environmental concerns.

LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY
INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The educational component of rural development continues to receive increasing attention from the Land-Grant Universities. During FY 73 each of the Land-Grant Universities responsible for administering the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 reported substantial efforts in rural development from throughout the University. Each indicated strong support of the basic philosophy of extending the knowledge of the University to the citizens of the state in order to aid in solving community problems and achieving community goals. Knowledge was generated through both basic and applied research and was extended to public officials, planning bodies, organizations and agencies, other community leaders and the general public so that they might better understand their development potentials and possible solutions to their community problems.

In addition to the efforts of the Extension Service faculty (reported elsewhere), hundreds of general Extension faculty conducted educational programs and served as resource people.

Research and resident instruction faculty in nearly every state served as resource specialists and consultants. Many of these efforts originated through, or were conducted in cooperation with, the Extension Service. The FY 73 reports from the states clearly show expanded efforts to make the Land-Grant Universities' vast reservoir of knowledge and expertise more readily available to assist state and local communities with their rural development activities.

Highlights and Examples

In order to more effectively carry out the leadership responsibility in community and rural development, the University of Florida established the "Center for Community and Rural Development." The Center is involved in coordination of research, Extension and resident instruction. The major research thrusts of the Center are: employment and income improvement, community institutions and organizations, manpower and human resource development, and public services and facilities. Arrangements were made through the Center to provide the town of Micanopy consulting services to assist in setting up a municipal accounting system. Also, services of faculty in the Department of Political Science and the Department of Government were coordinated and channeled through the Center to aid in restructuring the town charter.

During 1973, the University of Arizona formed a "Community Resources Committee" and an "Office of State and Community Resources." Through this office, communities can easily obtain help from many areas of the university. For example, the office helped coordinate a study for the Nogales School System, 12 faculty members helped with planning for the Haulapai Mountain Park near Kingman, and three professors were obtained for an Energy Symposium at Somerton. The College of Medicine provides many educational and technical services throughout the state. The Division of Continuing Education provides training in about all areas where sufficient interest and finance is available to support a class. The College of Pharmacy has a program to assist communities with problems of alcoholism and drug abuse. The Department of Anthropology helps communities throughout the state with archeological and museum problems.

North Dakota State University has established two centers -- one for Community and Regional Planning and one for Economic Development. One of the major projects of the Center for Community and Regional Planning during FY 73 was the Little Missouri Grasslands Study. The objective of the study is to develop a multiple land-use plan and supporting policies to guide future agricultural and industrial growth and conservation in nine Southwestern North Dakota counties. The study is intended to produce a number of alternative multiple land-use models for consideration of likely socio-economic and environmental implications. In an effort to present accurate information on which to base future planning decisions, four conferences were held for residents in the Little Missouri Grasslands area. The Center also cooperated with the Fargo Model Cities program in determining the special educational needs of area residents and assisted the Old West Regional Planning Commissions.

The Economic Development Center provided assistance in the form of research, consultation and feasibility studies to a number of private firms, community organizations and individuals in portions of North Dakota. Four Indian reservations, five EDA-designated counties and 15 EDA-qualified counties form the primary service area for the Center. A number of the qualified counties were given direct assistance in forming OEDP committees and taking the initial steps in completing the required development plan.

The University Year for Action was again operated through the Center. This program enables NDSU students to combine anti-poverty service and off-campus learning for a full year of academic credit. Sixty-three students, currently working in the program, are located at the four state Indian reservations.

At Oklahoma State University, the Geography Extension program is primarily concerned with assisting public agencies in understanding and solving locational and spatial organization problems in Oklahoma.

A major aspect of the Geography Extension program is to aid communities and sub-state planning districts in the preparation and interpretation of population and housing data. To do this, geographers have worked with members of several communities in preparing atlases.

As a result of contacts with many locally-elected officials and administrators across the state, members of the Geography Extension staff became convinced that many planners, administrators and decision makers lacked understanding of the nature of the censuses, the possible means of analyzing census data, the integration of census data with locally derived data, and the use of census and other data in planning and programming to anticipate and meet local needs. To help improve the situation, a long-term census education program was begun.

One staff member of Geography Extension also worked with an economist through the Community Development Institute at Oklahoma State University to provide assistance to the city of Blackwell in its search for industrial jobs to replace those to be lost when a zinc smelter closes down at the end of this year.

Extension geographers have also been involved in the past year in two technical assistance projects at the state and multi-state regional level. The first of these was a project for the Governor's Office of Community Affairs and Planning. It involved a preliminary analysis of "Alternatives for an Oklahoma Land Use Information System." Preparation of this report involved three members of the staff of the Geography Department and one member of the staff of the OSU Computer Center.

The second project was done for the Ozarks Regional Commission and involved portions of the 1973 Oklahoma Ozarks Area Development Plan. Members of the Geography Extension staff worked with economists from the Departments of Economics and Agricultural Economics through the Community Development Institute and the Research Foundation of Oklahoma State University to provide data and interpretive comments with respect to economic development, human resources development, community development and environmental enhancement, natural resource use and development, employment and income projections, and economic impact analysis for the state of Oklahoma.

The Office of Recreation and Park Resources at the University of Illinois provided much information and technical assistance to many nonmetropolitan communities through its divisions of outdoor recreation, personnel, community recreation and therapeutic recreation. Assistance was in the form of educational materials, consulting, studies and surveys, and training programs. Seminars and workshops brought many nonmetropolitan leaders to the campus for training.

Also, the University of Illinois Bureau of Urban and Regional Planning Research assisted many nonmetropolitan towns and rural county boards with planning and zoning matters in addition to the Extension activities described elsewhere in this report. Nonmetropolitan planners, planning commission members and other rural community leaders participated in workshops and conferences held by the Department of Urban Planning.

In addition, the Institute of Local Government and Public Affairs on campus continues to be actively involved with the state of Illinois in problems of modernizing local government in both rural and urban counties.

And the Center for Advanced Computation and the Department of Agricultural Economics are developing a computer system for the collection, analysis, retrieval and dissemination of data for use by Extension staff, researchers, planners and other community leaders in rural development programs throughout the state. Parts of the system will be operational during the coming year.

At Texas A&M, the Industrial Advisory Service, Environmental Engineering Division and Civil Engineering Department provided technical service related to sewage treatment, pollution control, and solid-waste disposal systems upon request to rural municipalities and rural industries.

Also, the Industrial Economic Research Division of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station conducted a course of instruction in basic industrial development, conducted the 23rd Annual Texas Industrial Development Conference, conducted one marine insurance seminar, and one seminar for the marina associations of Texas.

Short courses are one of the methods used by North Carolina State University to disseminate available knowledge and technology which can improve the quality of life in rural America. The Continuing Education Division of the University involved faculty from eight schools and conducted over 150 short courses during FY 73 which attracted more than 10,000 participants. Short courses have been conducted in the areas of air pollution, environmental concerns and safety, revenue sources, management schools, noise control procedure, dairy fieldmen and sanitarians conference, and water works operator school.

At Iowa State University, the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development has continued and expanded research relating to many aspects of economic development, health, housing, recreation, etc. CARD staff members have also participated in rural development training efforts benefiting both Extension staff members and other professionals such as regional planners.

The Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station has continued to support a broad range of research on transportation, taxation and many other problems with direct implications for rural development.

During FY 73, an Iowa airport study administered by the Engineering Research Institute was completed. And, research economists from the College of Sciences and Humanities and the College of Agriculture joined with an Extension economist in a study of the effects of, and alternatives to, personal property taxes.

As part of a pilot rural development project in Rockwell, the Center for Industrial Research and Service made a comprehensive study of main street business enterprises and needs in an effort to identify opportunities for educational assistance to businessmen.

Teaching and research staff members from the Department of Leisure Services in the College of Sciences and Humanities and the Department of Sociology and the Department of Forestry in the College of Agriculture have given substantial and ongoing assistance to schools, park and recreation boards, county boards of conservation and other groups serving recreational needs.

PROGRAM THRUSTS

1. ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

To generate the change to bring about the desired quality of life in rural areas, local leadership development continues to be a critical element. An effective indigenous leadership seeks to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships among community groups, self-sustaining community problem-solving structures and an expanding power base within the community. Stimulating interest and participation in community affairs to involve an increasingly broader cross section of the community enables the community itself to respond through its own initiatives to meet its goals and problems.

To facilitate this indigenous development process, Department personnel work directly with individuals as well as constituencies within the community. Such assistance is primarily twofold: to facilitate the process of community organization and to provide technical assistance to deal with substantive issues in such areas as economic development, community facilities, human resource development and environmental improvement.

To maintain these dual responsibilities, Department personnel themselves participate in in-service training and, through RD committees at state and substate levels, agencies within the Department are able to cooperatively facilitate local community efforts.

Statistical Summary

More time was devoted to organization and leadership development by USDA personnel during FY 73 than to any other major program thrust except for environmental improvement. Among the total man years spent on the 10 program areas, 20 percent were in this category. This input totals 923 man years compared to 888 in FY 72 and 694 in FY 71.

Among the 10 program thrust areas, assistance to organization and leadership development projects accounts for 39 percent of total USDA assistance to community projects.

Surveys and feasibility studies are often used to identify local leadership, assess community opinion and identify community issues. USDA assisted in 2,570 such studies in FY 73.

Frequently, the process of organization and leadership development is facilitated through meetings and workshops. Discussion and communications among a wide spectrum of different individuals and groups are essential to cooperative efforts in which local people organize to express their own needs and evaluate alternative action strategies. Group meetings for organization and leadership development account for 40 percent, or 36,284, of all group sessions initiated by USDA personnel across program thrust areas.

In addition, USDA personnel participated in meetings held by others, not only to provide technical information but to facilitate the development of indigenous leadership. USDA staff provided support to 18,066 such sessions during FY 73.

Through a planned communications strategy, USDA personnel can serve numerous individuals and groups impossible to reach through only personal contact. Numerous publications--newsletters, pamphlets, releases--are prepared. During FY 73, 49,122 different publications related to organization and leadership development were developed and, in total, 1,218,633 publications in this program area were distributed. In addition to printed material, audio-visual information further supports community organization and leadership development. In all, 10,781 different audio-visual presentations--radio and television broadcasts, slide sets, exhibits--on organization and leadership development were prepared by USDA personnel.

Highlights and Examples

The Extension Service has taken the initiative in organizing and developing educational programs to teach local decision makers how to cope with public finance problems. Particular attention was given to those problems associated with the new revenue sharing legislation. In Oklahoma, the Extension Service organized and conducted 11 separate meetings on revenue sharing. Approximately 1,600 public officials were trained at these meetings.

Louisiana Forestry Commission personnel working with the LaSalle Parish RD Committee sponsored meetings composed mostly of civic leaders at which plans were developed for building a civic center in the city of Jena. As noted in the State RD Committees section, LaSalle Parish received a distinguished service award for group achievement in rural community development from USDA in 1973.

In West Virginia, SCS, as part of the Webster County Committee, made investigations to determine an adequate site for a county sanitary land fill. At the urging of the county committee, the county court has now purchased easements and is preparing procedures for operating the land fill.

FHA personnel worked with Future Farmers of America chapters all across the country through the "Build Our American Communities" program. This program is designed to provide leadershp training in rural development for young people.

In Alabama, the Sumter County RD Committee has provided leadership in promoting rural development in Livingston and Sumter County. Under the leadership of the committee, an industrial park was developed. Today, five new industries, employing more than 1,000 people, have located in the park.

The state and regional RD committees in Colorado assisted the Extension Service and Northeastern Junior College in sponsoring a regional workshop on community-wide programming for community leaders, elected officials and agency representatives. The committees helped in organization and recruitment of participants as well as actually participating in the workshops.

The Hawaii RD Committee organized and conducted a planning meeting with each of the county committees to discuss potential county projects that could benefit from a concerted multi-agency effort. One of the many results of this planning session has been the development with state and federal agencies of sewerage proposals for rural communities in Hawaii County.

In Iowa, the Guthrie County RD Committee initiated discussion and planning which resulted in developing a county land fill. Mayors and town councils were reached. Resource persons from the Department of Health and Iowa State University assisted.

The Minnesota RD Committee has provided training for regional USDA personnel to facilitate their work with community leaders, to help them determine objectives--at the community level--and to locate resource support for industrial and economic development efforts at the community level.

In New York, the RD Committee, in conjunction with Southern Tier Central Regional Committee, held a two-day conference and workshop on rural development. The conference was attended by members of the state and regional planning commissions. In the workshop sessions participants reviewed committee efforts already underway, decided on needed changes in current procedures and policy, and set forth guidelines for committee activities in the coming years, with particular attention to committee action concerning the Rural Development Act of 1972.

The collective action taken by the Ohio RD Committee with regard to the Pilot Project for Community Development (I-70/77) included a tour and analysis of the project. Also, action was taken to establish a close and continuing liaison between those involved in the project and the state committee.

The Oklahoma RD Committee is providing training to members of county RD committees regarding the establishment of county development councils. The councils are organized to work closely with the sub-state planning districts and other organizations which have need for meaningful citizen participation.

The Rhode Island RD Committee surveyed elected and appointed town and city officials to determine their perception of local needs.

The Southeast Tennessee RD Committee has coordinated local government areawide efforts for several projects, such as regional solid waste disposal system, overall economic development plan and soil and land use mapping.

The findings of the Rural Affairs Study Commissions brought out that the people of Virginia, acting through their state and local governments, can influence the future pattern of land use settlement. The state RD Committee and the Virginia Resource Council are working closely with the Governor's office to bring about many of the community changes recommended in the Commission's findings.

The Grays Harbor Rural Development Committee takes leadership in assisting a three-county RC&D project in Southwest Washington. The result has been a 30-person county RD committee that effectively bridges the communications gap between county planning and the RC&D organization.

2. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

During FY 73, USDA agencies provided substantial comprehensive planning assistance to state governments, multicounty organizations and local development groups.

Statistical Summary

In FY 72, USDA provided some 480 man years of help. In FY 73, this figure increased to about 650 man years. States have become increasingly interested in promoting and cooperating in comprehensive land use planning.

In FY 73, USDA provided assistance for over 26,000 community projects in comprehensive planning. This assistance involved over 42,000 meetings and workshops, and more than 12,000 surveys and feasibility studies. The Department's information activities relating to comprehensive planning, including printed, audio and visual materials, surpassed those of FY 72.

Highlights and Examples

The type and amount of USDA assistance provided through state RD committees and smaller subcommittees has varied according to the needs of the local planners and the planning area.

USDA field personnel, some serving as members or advisors on state and local planning agencies, have assisted in preparing standards and specifications for land-use development. They have also provided planning materials such aerial photos, topographic maps, soil resource information and water quality data.

There are cases in every state that illustrate accomplishments resulting from USDA's assistance to rural development programs.

Research by CSRS on land use and rural change provided information for the development of New York's agricultural district legislation. The legislation enables farmers to apply for exemption from taxation on the value of their land in excess of its value for farming, and requires modification of administrative regulations and procedures to encourage the maintenance of agriculture. The legislation will provide an opportunity for farmers to avoid some of the development pressures that might force them out of business. A secondary benefit will be the preservation of open space in rapidly populating areas.

Forest Service field personnel of the Big Bear Ranger District of California assisted the local community in implementing a Bear Valley Communities General Plan that included review and technical input on proposed subdivisions, condominiums, recreation vehicle parks and shopping centers.

Under the RC&D program of SCS, erosion control and water management were provided for a 37-acre tract of land in Ohio that had potential for various community uses. USDA provided supplemental funds, soil surveys, engineering surveys and design, supervision of construction, and seeding of critical areas that helped the local planners carry out their programs. Results of the project were environmental enhancement, increased employment, and 40,000 user-days of recreational activities. Community interest is also reflected in plans for bigger and better county fairs on the improved land.

In Laurens County, South Carolina, a cooperative effort of the Upper Savannah Regional Planning Commission, FHA and the Rabon Creek Water District governing body resulted in plans for a central system to provide water for rural as well as urban areas of the county.

A continuing inventory and classification of rural zoning enabling legislation for all states has been undertaken by ERS. Selected local zoning ordinances are being analyzed as they relate to flood plain regulations, conservation zoning and agricultural use of land. Regulations and various alternatives are being compared as they may affect land use, land values and other selected economic factors. As part of this project, a publication was issued summarizing the main provisions of current enabling statutes that authorize zoning in rural or unincorporated areas of the United States.

A recent survey showed that 213 REA borrowers provided some form of technical and informational assistance to 347 multijurisdictional planning agencies in matters of mutual interest.

In response to considerable demand in Pennsylvania, the Extension Service has developed two correspondence courses on comprehensive land use planning for individual and group instruction. Training programs have been conducted in almost all counties of the state, and in many townships and boroughs. These meetings are usually co-sponsored by the local government unit.

BLM of the Department of the Interior and SCS provided most of the basic data necessary for a detailed map of vegetative land cover in Nevada. The state Committee and the Nevada Resource Action Council played a coordinating role. The Cooperative Extension Service undertook the printing and distribution of the map to individual and agency users at marginal cost. State and local communities use the map in their short and long-range planning.

In expectation that New York's Rural Development Act would be funded on a pilot project basis in FY 74, the RD Committee notified the Governor and is preparing a list of 15 social indicators, by county, for each region having significant rural acreage. The Committee will use the indicators in identifying regions or areas that can best benefit from the pilot project.

The state RD Committee in Oregon was instrumental in developing comprehensive planning programs in three districts. The five counties in one district began coordinating their efforts to address, on an area basis, problems relating to sewer and water systems, land use planning, economic growth, health and manpower.

In Rhode Island, a community development subcommittee was formed as a natural resource "team," available for consultation with local government units in guiding development of the community's natural resource base. The subcommittee's first undertaking was to explore for one community the flood hazard potential of various levels and types of development in a 1,200-acre watershed.

The RD Committee in Oklahoma took the lead in working with the Office of Community Affairs and Planning to develop land use plans for two counties, using aerial photographs provided by SCS. Three other counties are presently making land use surveys. It appears that such maps will be the first step in developing a land use plan for each county in the state.

West Virginia's RD Committee, in cooperation with nine other state organizations, sponsored a land use conference in FY 73. Among the objectives were to provide a basic concept of proper land use, provide a better understanding of the state's natural resources, focus attention on critical land use problems, identify existing and needed state land use laws, and learn what various groups and agencies have done and are doing to further rural development.

North Carolina's RD Committee, in cooperation with North Carolina's Agricultural Extension Service, has put together an educational packet to help local leaders better understand the need for land use planning, and to stimulate their interests in orderly community growth.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The availability of a wide range of community services and facilities is crucial to the development of rural areas, not only in supporting the creation of business and industrial employment opportunities, but also in enhancing the overall quality of life. Adequate water and waste disposal facilities are paramount, but good electric and telephone service, libraries, easy access to medical services and facilities and better transportation are also essential.

The ability of a community to provide these services and facilities is influenced by the location, population density, and social and economic characteristics of the area. Efforts from within the community are necessary and often the facilities can be provided only through the cooperation and participation of more than one community.

Obtaining community services and facilities often takes years of planning and waiting by local groups and organizations. The Extension Service has helped local groups (1) identify the need for various services and facilities, (2) resolve problems arising, (3) pinpoint and identify sources of assistance and (4) develop applications for assistance.

Reduced reliance on federal grants has required reorientation of development programs at the county and district levels. Recognizing this, USDA has encouraged community leaders to look to alternative sources of funds for services and facilities. USDA played a vital role in helping develop understanding of the Revenue Sharing Act. As a result of the educational programs undertaken, the attitudes of community leaders were often changed. Many people previously felt that a sanitary landfill, for example, was nothing more than a dump. They also resulted in such projects as countywide water systems and rural community water and sewer systems being planned and implemented. In cases where funding, such as bond issues was needed, USDA played a vital role in developing understanding on a countywide basis.

FHA personnel have held and participated in hundreds of meetings with local officials and citizen groups to discuss needs and how to go about organizing, developing plans and securing resources to build or improve water and waste disposal systems. In addition to financing projects itself, FHA helped communities secure funds from EDA, HUD, regional commissions and state and local sources.

FHA gave financial support to 1,441 water and/or waste disposal projects in FY 73. These projects will serve some 1,300,000 people and hundreds of businesses, industrial plants, schools and institutions.

The Forest Service has aided the development of community facilities in rural areas by providing technical assistance and feasibility studies and by serving on boards that plan and develop these facilities. Help in developing sanitary landfills and solving other waste disposal problems was perhaps the greatest contribution. However, such help as providing access roads, developing adequate parking, designing snow control systems, assisting with firefighting facilities and training of personnel, establishing airplane hangars, carrying out enforcement of local regulations of campers, providing subject material for training in fire management, advising about the physical development of private lands, providing technical assistance in setting up rural transportation and other utility systems, and reclaiming usable solid waste also were among activities of the Forest Service.

SCS helped rural communities make and implement decisions for selecting and improving sites for public facilities such as schools, libraries, hospitals, recreation areas, sanitary landfills, sewer and water facilities, transportation and power.

In addition to providing electric and telephone service, many REA-financed systems are helping bring other vital community facilities to their service areas.

About one-third of the REA borrowers responding to a recent survey reported help on 259 community facilities projects. Most of these projects dealt with central water service and included:

1. Legal assistance in forming the necessary organizations.
2. Helping identify potential water users.
3. Sponsoring citizen information meetings.
4. Assistance with engineering matters.

Statistical Highlights

The number of man years expended in connection with community services and facilities was virtually the same as last year. Solid waste disposal projects continued to claim a major part of the attention in comparison with other types of facilities.

Highlights and Examples

Approximately 20 countywide solid waste management systems became operational in Alabama during FY 73, bringing the total of countywide systems to 50. Rural residents now have a sanitary means of garbage and waste disposal within convenient reach. Roadside dumps are disappearing and renewed pride is evident in these counties. Improved health and a more attractive environment will also result from the absence of dumps in rural areas.

Clinton, a town of 6,000 in western Missouri, recently completed constructing a hospital to serve people in that rural area. Public funds were not available to landscape the grounds. City officials sought help from the Missouri Department of Conservation through their Community Forestry Program. A planting plan was developed by the farm forester and the staff landscape architect. When the forester presented the plan to local leaders, the whole community rallied to support it. The local newspaper published the drawing. The Community Betterment Committee, with the aid of civic clubs and the hospital board, raised more than enough in contributions to buy the trees and shrubs from a commercial nursery. With the forester giving instructions, the local National Guard unit planted the trees. Rural development through community action is not new in Clinton. With planning help through community forestry, a 42-acre grade and high school campus and a cemetery had been planned and planted earlier.

The Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, RD Committee and the planning commission, assisted by the District Conservationist, has completed a rural development project identifying all bodies of water within the county which could be used as emergency fire control water supplies. This project was carried out as the result of a request by the County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. Nearly 1,000 impoundments were identified and located on maps. These were then duplicated and given to the volunteer fire departments. County planning commission summer student employees did the work under the guidance and direction of the District Conservationist. Fire departments will use the maps to evaluate the applicability of each site for emergency water supply and contact landowners for approval to use the water during emergencies.

The Utah RD Committee, in cooperation with the State Department of Community Affairs and the Utah League of Cities and Towns, has developed a statewide community development program, "Utah Community Progress." The Governor appointed a 26-member steering committee, drawn from agencies and organizations throughout the state concerned with community development, to assist in directing the program. The objectives are to: (1) coordinate and eliminate duplication in the many programs of community development, (2) provide technical expertise to local community leaders who have been unwilling or unable to seek guidance for participation in state and federal programs and (3) provide additional opportunity for minorities to become actively involved in community planning.

The West Virginia RD Committee saw the need for participating in activities relating to a proposed Better School Buildings amendment. Letters and information pertaining to the legislation were sent out to all county RD committees with encouragement to take immediate action with local legislators and various community leaders to make them aware of the need for passage of appropriate legislation. The Committee also took the initiative to write several members of the legislature concerning the amendment. The legislation passed.

In Wyoming, local ranchers and farmers, area banks, the Eden Valley Irrigation and Drainage District, county commissioners, a local business and the Big Sandy Conservation District cooperated to secure a truck scale. Much of the hay from the area is sold to commercial buyers, most of it to areas where no scales are available. Rough estimates of local ranchers and farmers are that this scale facility will result in an increased income of $10-15,000 annually to the immediate area.

Decatur County, Georgia, citizens will have an opportunity to preserve home-grown vegetables and meats for the first time in years in a new canning plant just opened. This plant is a result of citizens' requests, followed by months of work by their community development committee and other concerned organizations. The plant, which will serve only county citizens, will handle 700 to 800 quarts of vegetables or meats per day.

An ERS study has been completed in Pennsylvania to determine whether a regional water system will improve the efficiency of delivering water to users. The study showed that areas not served by public service facilities tend to have smaller populations, lower population density, and a smaller number of potential customers than areas served by public water facilities. These factors influence the unit cost of public water. The study points out some of the institutional constraints that might prohibit the regionalization of public water service.

The economics of providing public water and sewer systems also is the basis for an ERS study in rural Oklahoma. Capital investment and operating costs of 60 water and 25 sewer systems are being examined. Fixed and variable costs, types and sizes of systems, methods of financing, managerial aspects, topography of the area, and number and density of the population are among the items being investigated.

CSRS initiated research for the improvement of a wide array of community services, including health education, transportation, water supplies, housing and waste disposal during FY 73. In Kansas the program thrust was a comparative analysis of the cost of providing public services by size of local government units. In Kentucky determination is being made of optimum reservoir capacities for rural water supplies and an economic analysis of providing community services in rural areas is being made in Louisiana.

4. HOUSING

Because of the inter-relationship of adequate housing and rural development, as recognized by the President's Task Force on Rural Development, efforts to improve the quantity and quality of housing in rural areas has been given continuing emphasis.

During FY 73, a moratorium was placed on federally-subsidized housing programs. This was done pending a thorough study of the involvement of the federal government in housing. Rural nonsubsidized housing programs of FHA and, to a lesser degree, those of HUD and VA continued.

The Department of Agriculture, through those agencies which have supporting and coordinating responsibilities in the rural housing field, has participated in a number of efforts on behalf of better rural housing. Some of these are:

1. Workshops to provide information to builders, lenders and consumers.
2. Ownership counseling in subjects essential to successful home ownership.
3. Organization and cooperative efforts with state housing agencies, state and local housing committees and planning commissions.
4. Promotion of housing for the elderly and low-income families.
5. Site selection and development.
6. Surveys of housing needs.
7. Advice on performance of repairs, relocation of families and development of remodeling plans.
8. Development of zoning regulations, land use plans, codes and subdivision regulations.
9. Housing design.
10. Mobile homes as a housing alternative.
11. Development of community facilities to support better housing.
12. Organization and technical assistance to self-help housing groups.
13. Organization of housing authorities.
14. Development of labor housing projects.
15. Improved management of rental housing.

16. Procurement of housing in disaster areas.

17. Development of new towns.

Statistical Summary

The number of housing projects given significant assistance by USDA agencies and RD committees increased substantially in FY 73 - from 7,263 to 8,401. The number of surveys and feasibility studies increased even more - 56 percent over the previous year.

Highlights and Examples

Extension Service personnel devoted considerable time to assessing needs and exploring various alternatives for meeting those needs. Assistance in establishing regional or multi-county housing authorities was provided on a more extensive basis than in previous years. To make public housing available to more rural people, assistance was given also in establishing countywide authorities to serve those living outside the incorporated towns or municipalities.

In Alabama, one of the regional housing authorities that Extension assisted recently received federal funds to start construction in the rural areas of its 10-county region. Approximately 40 houses have been built.

In Pepin County, Wisconsin, where over 26 percent of the county's households, representing over 35 percent of the total population, qualify for public housing, an extensive educational program was undertaken that resulted in the formation of a countywide authority to serve rural residents.

In practically every state, Extension personnel, in cooperation with state and local rural development committees and other state and federal agencies, carried on continuous educational programs dealing with almost every aspect of housing. These involved the participation of lenders, builders, contractors, local government officials, civic groups, social workers, planners, housing managers and, of course, a large number of consumers. The latter included both present and prospective owners and, in some instances, tenants. Special attention was given to the needs of low-income families, the elderly and to Indians in states with significant Indian populations.

In Texas, more than 24,500 families in 142 counties participated in Extension educational housing programs. Families representing all economic and ethnic groups sought new information needed to help make decisions, learn skills, and to take appropriate action in acquiring and improving housing. In 19 counties, more than 1,100 individuals received information and/or assistance through cooperative programs with other agencies and organizations, such as FHA, HUD and the Texas Mobile Home Association.

In certain areas of Virginia and Texas special outreach programs were undertaken in cooperation with other agencies and organizations to acquaint low-income families occupying substandard housing with the alternatives and opportunities available to them for obtaining more adequate housing. In Texas, subprofessional aides helped with this project.

During FY 73, the Extension Service and FHA developed cooperative arrangements for providing counseling to families receiving or expecting to receive financing from the latter agency. Such counseling included assistance in the selection of an appropriately designed home, performance of home repairs and maintenance, use and maintenance of home appliances, the choice and repair of home furnishings, remodeling alternatives, money management, site selection and development, landscaping and similar subject areas related to successful home ownership.

In Alabama and Wisconsin, Extension provided assistance for several groups of low-income families wanting to organize and cooperatively build houses with their own labor so as to reduce the investment required.

Since rural housing is FHA's largest volume program, much time and effort was devoted to providing information and technical assistance. FHA personnel have initiated and assisted in housing needs surveys and helped to establish housing authorities. They have held training or informational meetings for architects, builders, subcontractors, closing attorneys, suppliers of building materials and subdivision builders to discuss housing needs and inform them of FHA housing authorities, regulations and procedures. Suggestions were made on how to build low-cost housing as well as how to increase volume and quality. FHA personnel taught builders how to package housing loans. This helped county personnel handle a much larger volume of business. Hundreds of meetings were held for those interested in rental housing (multiple units) as well as individual housing.

FHA personnel in Oklahoma provided assistance to 14 communities on rental housing, each resulting in a rental housing project. FHA personnel in South Carolina, in cooperation with the State Housing Authority, are vigorously attacking the housing situation for low and modest-income people and striving to improve it. They made 4,700 loans this year. West Virginia personnel helped two counties form housing authorities and distributed samples of model regulations for subdivisions.

According to the 1960 Census of Housing, approximately 11,000, or 50 percent of occupied dwellings located within Robeson County, North Carolina were substandard. Approximately 44,000 persons were living in substandard housing. Furthermore, EDA published information that, in 1968, approximately 81 percent of the families in the county had incomes of less than $7,000. Two years ago, the county RD panel paid particular attention to this need and decided to adopt housing as a priority project. This project has continued on into FY 73, with FHA in a leadership role. During the fiscal year, approximately 200 rural housing loans have been approved for a total of $3,500,000. It is estimated that these funds generated assets in excess of $16,000,000 within the county. The county tax base was increased accordingly. Approximately 40 builders and developers along with their staffs were directly involved in constructing the dwellings, selling the land, developing subdivisions, etc. Working hand in hand with FHA have been the County Commissioners, Extension Service, SCS and county health department.

The FCS report, "Better Living Through Better Housing," describes a model housing project for orange grove workers near Frostproof, Florida. The construction of 85 homes, housing 475 people was the result of this cooperative effort that supplied superior living quarters at reasonable prices in fee simple.

CSRS reported three research projects in the rural housing field:

1. Iowa - Assessing Housing Alternatives in Rural Communities by Low-Income Residents.
2. Massachusetts - Model for Evaluating Government Housing Actions for the Rural Population.
3. Michigan - Impact of Rapid Population Growth on Housing and Public Services in a Rural Community.

REA responded to requests from its borrowers for information on sources of credit for housing and sources of technical assistance.

A survey of community development activities indicated that, during 1972, some 80 REA borrowers assisted with projects concerning housing. Examples are arranging financing, forming housing authorities and surveying housing needs.

The Basin Electric Power Cooperatives in North Dakota received a HUD grant for housing development. The program area encompassed the rural electric service areas in more than three-fourths of North Dakota and all of South Dakota, excluding only urban areas of 10,000 or more population. Upon receipt of the grant, the Basin Electric staff, in consultation with other public and private groups, selected 11 target areas within the two states.

Over 2,500 new housing units are now being built as a result of the "People's Housing Program" carried out by Basin Electric. This development is in cooperation with FHA and HUD.

The Forest Service Southern Research Station in Louisiana has published two useful housing publications: "Controlling Wood-Destroying Beetles in Buildings and Furniture" and "Finding and Keeping a Healthy House."

The Georgia Coastal Plains Regional Commission is sponsoring a housing program with profit orientation toward solving the low- and moderate-cost housing crisis in 29 counties in South Georgia.

Housing constitutes one of the most important thrust programs for the Forest Service Institute of Tropical Forestry research personnel in Puerto Rico. Coordination with the Commonwealth Housing Agency made possible the development of a sound program to develop suitable low-cost housing.

Working with a Mississippi private realtor and housing developer, a ranger district in the Homochetto National Forest worked up a land exchange of National Forest land adjoining the Meadville town limits for land in the general forest areas of equal value. The black community will profit most from this effort.

Forest Service research personnel assisted the National Forest Products Association, American Plywood Association, American Wood Preservers Institute, Society of American Wood Preservers and FHA with design and technical assistance relating to the use of treated wood foundations. Approximately 800 homes had been constructed by the end of 1972, using the "All-Weather Wood Foundation System."

The Ohio RD Committee has worked closely with a task force from the Ohio State University in establishing a model home on a housing site that is being developed as part of the efforts in the pilot I-70/77 community development project. The local pilot project group has formed a nonprofit corporation to expedite the housing program. A housing site has been approved in the area which will involve 80 to 100 housing units. FHA has authorized approval of the rural housing site development loan.

A housing subcommittee of the Alaska RD Committee held a number of workshops with all agencies and groups involved in the lending industry. This was the result of Committee sessions on housing and the lack of information about securing funds for housing. This committee, through its workshops, is producing a brochure that will list all lending sources in Alaska with their loan requirements and other pertinent data.

Rural development agencies participated with the Virginia Building Manufacturers Association to support and sponsor a Mid-Atlantic Conference on Industrial Housing.

5. HEALTH AND WELFARE

Health personnel and facility shortages continue to be particularly acute in rural America. Sparse population, low family incomes, preference for specialization among physicians, and other factors account for a growing concentration of physicians in the larger cities and a decline in the number in most rural communities.

The number of rural counties without a doctor is increasing and probably will continue to increase as elderly physicians die, retire or move away and are not replaced. The problem is often aggravated by the absence of satisfactory communication and transportation facilities. As a result, access to physicians, dentists, nurses and other health resources in rural areas is significantly below that for the rest of the nation. In addition, the injury rate is higher and, even when facilities are available for treatment and care, they often do not provide comprehensive services.

USDA agencies, individually and collectively, along with state and local rural development committees, were active in FY 73 in undertakings to improve health care delivery in rural areas. This consisted of research dealing with health care delivery systems serving rural areas and alternative medical service delivery systems for such areas, educational programs dealing with a wide range of health-related topics, technical assistance, and participation with representatives of other state and federal agencies, planning groups and public officials in planning and implementing specific projects. Projects mentioned most frequently involved comprehensive health planning, procurement of physicians and other health manpower, establishment of clinics, health centers and other physical facilities, and the organization of emergency ambulance services.

Statistical Highlights

The number of different projects assisted increased from 4,019 in FY 72 to 5,300 in FY 73. Nearly three times as many surveys and feasibility studies were conducted in FY 73 as in FY 72.

There was a marked improvement in liaison developed and maintained between state and local RD committees and the respective state and local medical associations regarding health care delivery in rural areas.

Progress has been made, but rural-urban statistical comparisons still point to a greater deficiency of health services in rural areas.

Highlights and Examples

In an effort to bring improved health care to Wisconsin residents, "Nursing Dial Access," a taped library, was made available to professional nurses throughout the state as a means of continuing education and information transfer. The project was undertaken initially under the Regional Medical Program, but continuing support is being provided by the Wisconsin

Extension Service. The five- to eight-minute tapes are available around the clock from any telephone in Wisconsin at no cost to the caller. About 12,500 calls from Wisconsin nursing personnel were accepted during FY 73. The service has particular impact on inservice education programs and also provides a medium for the continuing education of nurses who practice in isolated settings, such as rural hospitals, public health departments and schools.

In Colorado, the Forest Service, in cooperation with other agencies, helped develop a proposal for extending city sewer lines to areas adjacent to Kemberling, and in planning and supervising rescue procedures for the local search and rescue group serving the area around Steamboat Springs.

In California, Mississippi, Utah and Wyoming such assistance was directed primarily at the organization and maintenance of first aid stations to provide emergency treatment for area residents and travelers.

The Forest Service Northeastern Research Station has been conducting research on three Appalachian region plants of medicinal value, Indian tobacco, Pokeberry and Mayapple. This research is aimed at finding the best ways to grow these plants under natural forest conditions, how they can be maintained, and how to harvest them without destroying existing populations. This information will help people of Appalachia to grow or collect medicinal plants as cash crops for supplementary income.

In Illinois, the Pike County Extension Service and the county health department initiated a cooperative project to test the effects of noise levels on hearing, particularly upon farm equipment operators. A total of 194 people were tested, 45 from town and the rest from the farms. Forty-five percent of those tested from towns failed to pass the exam; 87 percent from farms failed. Those failing hearing exams were offered professional consultation. About 90 percent of the failures sought consultation. The results of the clinic were used to inform others of the need to wear protective devices while operating large farm equipment or when otherwise in contact with loud noises.

A doctor in Somerset County, Maryland became alarmed at the incidence of diabetes after treating 45 affected people one month after opening his office. He called for help from an Extension agent in establishing an educational program about the disease. An instructor was located through the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore and 20 diabetic patients were immediately enrolled in a 10-week course.

Health and welfare matters also claimed a great deal of attention from state and local RD committees during the past year.

Recognizing the critical and widespread nature of the rural health problem in North Carolina, the State RD Committee organized a task force on rural health to assist it in identifying and analyzing major health problems and in recommending strategies and developing programs to solve or alleviate these problems. The task force first met in January, 1973. Membership includes representatives of organized medicine, dentistry and nursing; private agencies; state, local and federal government; institutions of higher education and a youth representative. A steering committee and three work groups have been organized. The work groups are to suggest activities and develop programs: (1) for improving consumer understanding of health services, (2) to improve public understanding and use of preventive health measures and better health maintenance practices and (3) for expanding and improving health facilities and services in rural areas.

In Grant County, North Dakota, action initiated by the County RD Committee resulted in formation of a fire protection district.

Webster County, West Virginia has three doctors, but this fails to match the need. Work with local leaders and representatives of the Comprehensive Health Planning unit resulted in the procurement of two new emergency vehicles. Comprehensive Health Planning headquarters in Elkins sent our two resource people to educate the public on benefits of the vehicles. Extension and the Planning unit have also cooperated in setting up a course to train individuals in use of the vehicles. Over 50 persons participated, including members of both volunteer fire departments.

In Washington, county RD committees have been actively involved in comprehensive health planning programs and a sub-committee of the state RD Committee helped establish outlets for food stamps through post offices and members of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

One of the major objectives of the Ottumwa, Iowa Area Extension Service is to assist local people in developing a structure for providing a more equitable health care system. The Area Office, cooperating with county Extension staff members, assisted in organizing nine county health planning councils in the 10 county area. Each council named representatives to an area group, called the "Tenco Health Planning Agency." THPA has developed a committee structure to move toward certification, funding, employment of staff and development of an overall health care plan for the Tenco Area.

The Utah RD Committee, in cooperation with the Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, Utah State University and others, sponsored a state safety conference for agriculture leaders. The groups, noting that all people should assist in sponsoring and conducting safety education programs, suggested responsibilities farm organizations and auxiliaries, farm suppliers and equipment manufacturers, and farm families should assume.

In a number of instances, USDA agencies and RD committees have been instrumental in obtaining medical personnel. In Oregon and Tennessee, the National Health Service Corps assisted.

Medical care had not been available since 1968 in any town in Wheeler County, Oregon. The County Court, in consultation with the state and area RD Committees, identified medical attention as number one on a list of priority needs of the county. One full year of letters, phone calls and personal contacts by members of the Court, the County Extension Staff, the RD Committee and many citizens culminated in assignment of a doctor from the National Health Service Corps to Wheeler County. A church provided clinic space. It appears that the first year totals will represent an average of nearly two office calls per person for the 1,849 people of the county.

A similar situation existed in Morgan County, Tennessee in 1969. The County RD Committee set out to secure medical service programs. At the time there were two doctors, but both of them were more than 75 years old. Since that time, one has died and the other has had to limit his practice. An article in a USDA leaflet about the NHSC sparked action to secure the assignment of two doctors who were expected to report for duty in July, 1973.

6. MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

The creation of jobs and stimulation of economic activity in rural areas have been a prime thrust of the USDA rural development effort during the past year. To effectively carry out these objectives, participating USDA agencies have worked closely with other federal agencies, states, local governments, colleges, vocational schools and industry representatives; maintained liaison with state employment agencies; and served on Governors Manpower Planning Councils. This has resulted in:

1. Better income opportunities.
2. Alleviation of unemployment and underemployment.
3. Awareness of employment and training opportunities.
4. A better supply of well-trained workers in rural areas.
5. Assistance to migrant agricultural workers in obtaining training and qualifying for permanent year-round employment.
6. Development of marketing skills coupled with career development and updating of skills.

Statistical Summary

More than 240 man years were devoted to manpower development in FY 73. Nationwide, assistance was provided for more than 2,700 community projects to update job-training skills, provide increased rural employment services and across-the-board assistance to all working groups. This has helped to reduce the unemployment rolls.

Highlights and Examples

The Extension Service has maintained liaison with state employment services on a continuing basis to identify job opportunities and training needs. In many states Extension representatives serve on the Manpower Planning Councils established by the governors. Representation is also provided on community and local councils or boards. In a number of states, "Operation Hitchhike" projects have been developed and are operated jointly by Extension and the State Employment Service.

In one county in Virginia in which this cooperative project is operative, 844 job placements were made last year, providing more than $4 million in yearly salaries, and $15 million to the county's economy.

In the six-county project area in Oregon, there were 749 job placements, 754 job orders and 908 requests for counseling service. Over 1,100 referrals were made and 87 new jobs created.

But USDA contributions to manpower development were not limited to "Operation Hitchhike."

In Arkansas, for example, "Career Days" were sponsored in cooperation with colleges, vocational schools and industry representatives to help young people in choosing vocations and in determining the additional training needed. In one district, over 3,400 high school students from 37 schools participated.

In New Jersey, the manpower development program resulted in floral design training for 180 people. These trainees are now employed in flower shops. Training has also been offered to 160 people in ground maintenance, to 230 in floriculture and nursery management and to 200 in arboriculture.

In Utah, a wastewater treatment plant operator training program was established by a grant from EPA. This resulted in training of 26 operators from 15 different communities. Specific efforts were undertaken to help senior citizens update their skills.

In Dade County, Florida, migrant agricultural workers will have a chance to qualify for permanent year-round employment as a result of a training program developed in cooperation with the state and Dade County Migrant Manpower Delivery System.

The Forest Service has made a significant contribution to manpower development in providing both training and opportunities for employment.

In the Virginia Division of Forestry, 81 new contract crews and equipment operators were trained, employing 358 men. This effort helped small private landowners and resulted in additional acreage in forest production.

In Alabama, efforts have been expanded to interest young people in pulpwood harvesting. This has been accomplished as part of a vocational training program bringing together private, state and federal expertise.

Forest Service personnel in Kentucky have provided training in forest fire protection and suppression to 45 Berea college students and 15 residents of Jackson County.

Through "Operation Help" and in cooperation with schools, employment offices and manpower committees, the Forest Service provided training, tools and work experience for 50 students who were unable to succeed academically.

In the summer of 1972, 15 Neighborhood Youth Corps youths worked 10 weeks in Colorado in a district of the Rio Grande National Forest. They were trained, then planted trees, seeded road banks, cleaned camp grounds and built range fences. At the end of the program, 12 boys took six small thinning contracts.

In California, the Tahoe National Forest has worked closely with the Sacramento American Indian Agency and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in developing programs for providing training and job opportunities for American Indians on forestry-type projects.

FHA helped a technical school in South Carolina obtain a $50,000 loan for the purchase of home building materials and supplies to be used in training unemployed and underemployed persons to work in home construction. When the houses are finished they are sold to low-income families.

FCS assisted North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and New York groups to secure manpower training programs for state and local craft programs. The Pennsylvania and New York efforts were directed to veteran and senior citizen programs.

The Blue Ridge Hearthside Craft Cooperative, Boone, North Carolina was assisted in its program to secure a $100,000 grant to train 400 persons in crafts producing wood products and soft goods.

7. RECREATION AND TOURISM

There has been a phenomenal increase in recreation and tourism activities throughout the nation. In general, the demand is far in excess of opportunities provided by public and private facilities. Several factors have contributed to the increased demand:

1. An increased population.
2. A more leisure-oriented public with more time for recreation.
3. A more affluent population with more money to spend on recreation.
4. An increasingly mobile society seeking diversion.
5. A more highly-educated society.
6. An increased level of advertising by the tourist industry.

Recent urbanization has changed the life style of Americans and increased their demand for recreational opportunities. Since metropolitan areas cannot meet the demand, people look to rural America to satisfy their leisure time needs and desires.

As local communities develop the facilities to handle tourists, they can expect to create a multiplier effect which aids their local areas. As travelers purchase goods and services from small local businesses, which in turn buy supplies locally and pay their employees, the total community benefits.

The Department's efforts are geared toward helping communities make and implement decisions related to development, improvement and operation of recreation and tourism services and facilities.

USDA agencies and RD committees provide county boards, recreation commissions, local communities, special interest groups and community leaders with survey statistics, demand analysis, design layouts and financial advice on improving their local recreational facilities. In addition, public land recreational opportunities often provide the impetus for community development.

Creating an awareness of the need for facilities in local communities, assisting in establishing local sponsoring organizations, identifying specific project areas, selecting sites for recreational projects, formalizing specific projects and confirming local money commitments on projects are all contributions of USDA agencies and RD committees.

Statistical Summary

In FY 73, the Department provided 296 man years of assistance in recreation and tourism projects, an increase of 71 man years over FY 72. USDA assisted with 2,236 feasibility studies of public and private recreational projects, also an increase over the preceding year.

Highlights and Examples

Local RD committees and USDA agencies in Ohio worked with local sponsors in providing assistance to the Margaret Creek Watershed Project which was dedicated early this year. The project includes water supply, camping, fishing and swimming facilities and other soil and water conservation measures.

An ERS study is being carried out to determine how inner-city residents of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, use their leisure time; the types of recreation activities they participate in; and the kinds of recreational facilities and opportunities they prefer. The possible use of rural areas to supply these latent needs is an integral part of the study.

Extension county and area staffs assisted the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission in preparing a HUD-funded regional open space study. The primary contribution was arranging meetings of local leaders and the RD committee's involvement in inventorying resources, evaluation and program planning. Similar assistance was rendered another regional commission in preparing a regional historical site study.

National Forest personnel in Utah participated in numerous feasibility surveys, planning efforts and implementation of projects. Major projects included: Emery County recreation and historical brochure, San Juan County recreation brochure, Utah Travel Council snowmobile and off-road vehicle publications, Helper Senior Citizens Park, proposed LaSal Mountain Four Seasons recreation complex, proposed Blue Mountain ski area expansion, Electric Lake recreation development and development needs of Skyline Drive in coordination with Utah Travel Council, State Highway Department and State Division of Parks and Recreation.

Extension Service has provided leadership in developing a six-county recreation plan for Southwestern Indiana. Each county will have its own plan but area-wide coordination has provided for minimization of duplication. The Posey County plan is ready for printing and most of the information has been gathered and an analysis made for the remaining five counties.

National Forest people have worked with a local community in Texas to develop a cooperative agreement to improve the Kiskapoo Recreation area. This involves participation in the tourism development efforts by the Houston County Development Foundation. Maps and programs about Davy Crockett National Forest have been used extensively.

A ski development near Jackson Hole, Wyoming includes a 63-passenger aerial tram, cleared ski slopes, and numerous buildings and other installations that go with a large ski development. The development is also used in the summer. When the development was constructed by the Jackson Hole Ski Corporation, it requested SCS assistance in revegetation work on the disturbed areas. SCS plant materials specialists recommended a grass mixture which proved to be well adapted to the steep, rocky slopes. Summer visitors who now line up to ride the aerial tram see only vegetated clearings in the alpine timber instead of the ugly scars created by the brush and rock removal work. The development employs about 160 people on a year-round basis and is making a decided impact on this community.

The Alaska RD Council sponsored a one-day workshop during its September meeting on planning and developing outdoor recreation plans. This was well attended by borough, city and interested recreation councils. The records of this workshop provided excellent reference material from the private, state and federal panelists for future use of local citizens. The information obtained provided the Homer Area Council with the necessary procedural steps to assist their local recreation council in developing a master plan and to carry out the first part of a $100,000 local sports and camping development.

The Forest Service worked with the local Park Falls Chamber of Commerce in Wisconsin to develop an area recreation map which has been distributed at various sport and recreation shows throughout the Midwest. The snowmobile maps have also been distributed at shows and at almost every commercial establishment in Price County.

The Louisiana RD sub-committee on recreation, tourism and wildlife is composed of representatives from federal and state agencies who are members of the Louisiana RD Committee. This sub-committee has continued and expanded its efforts with the Northwest Louisiana Tourist Association. Color slides have been prepared for an exhibit that has been placed in the tourist information center west of Shreveport on Interstate 20. The group has been responsible for publishing brochures that feature outstanding tourist attractions for the entire area. They are in the process now of planning an educational program in cooperation with major gasoline distributors. This program will train service station attendants to be more helpful in pointing out things to do and see in Northwest Louisiana.

The RD Committee in Puerto Rico was instrumental in arranging with local authorities for the construction of a baseball park for wards Santa Olaya and Barrio Nuevo, and initial efforts have been made for a similar project in Ceiba. The Committee has met with State Planning Board and Industrial Development Company office at San Juan to interest them in an ornamentals course to help tourist development for Manunabo.

A nature area project was initiated at the Lake Forest North Elementary School in Delaware. This project offers students an opportunity to understand environmental balance. It also helps encourage the younger generation to protect natural open spaces and shows them ways to improve undeveloped areas for wildlife and extended beauty. One county committee has initiated a bird watcher's program for this fall. This will consist of several educational meetings on bird identification, care and habits and "inviting birds to your backyard." A tour of a wildlife refuge was also a part of this project. A Conservation Field Day is scheduled for fall of 1973. This program will include youth groups statewide . The objectives are to educate and inform youth of "the world around us." The program will also cover career opportunities in agriculture, forestry, wildlife management, etc.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

There were increased demands during FY 73 for U. S. Department of Agriculture assistance on measures and activities contributing to environmental protection and improvement. The year was one of heightened public interest in environmental matters and many new regulatory laws were enacted at local, state and federal levels of government. A number of states passed legislation, and others have it under consideration, for the control of pollution from sedimentation based on a model act suggested to them by the Council of State Governments. Units of government at all levels gave greater attention to means of dealing with plant-animal-human and solid waste disposal problems which are damaging to both rural and urban residents.

Reports from state and local rural development committees and from Departmental agencies indicate that the expertise and assistance available through Departmental programs is increasingly being sought and utilized in planning and carrying out such environmental improvement efforts.

Statistical Summary

During FY 73 Departmental personnel provided more than 1,180 man years of informational and technical assistance to communities, groups, and other governmental agencies on environmental protection and improvement compared to 1,064 in FY 72. This assistance included 4,554 surveys and feasibility studies and nearly 29,000 meetings, workshops, and conferences. Over 70,000 news articles were prepared for use in newspapers and periodicals. These figures are all higher than in FY 72.

Highlights and Examples

The following examples typify the kinds and range of Departmental assistance provided during FY 73 to enhance the quality of the environment.

Orderly, environmentally sound development is expected to be the pattern in Currituck County, North Carolina, as a result of joint efforts of the county rural development panel, county planning board, and the county board of commissioners. The Currituck Outer Banks, until recently an area of untouched beaches on the Atlantic Ocean, was being subjected to increased development pressures without regard to land or water resources. Assistance in inventorying the natural resource base and in formulating satisfactory future development plans for the area was requested from the county rural development panel. The panel recommended completion of a detailed soils map to aid in identifying developable and undevelopable areas and fringe areas. Soils maps and interpretations were completed by the Soil Conservation Service and provided to the county planning board and are now being used by county officials and developers as a guide for further development.

The Oklahoma-USDA Rural Development Committee conducted a series of educational meetings in each of the eleven substate planning districts to acquaint local rural leaders with approved methods of disposing of solid waste, financing methods and ways of organizing to accomplish the task. As a result, most rural communities have become interested in improving their solid waste disposal systems and several counties have organized countywide environmental authorities. Some have created multicounty trusts for solid waste collection and others have contracted with larger cities for sanitary waste collection and disposal services.

The West Virginia RD Committee co-sponsored an air pollution workshop which focused on the status and effects of air pollution on plant and animal life. The conference created an awareness of the problem and how it affects the rural economy of the state.

Routt National Forest personnel in Colorado assisted planning commissions and individual landowners on matters concerning 16 subdivision proposals. Considerations involved in the environmental planning have been broad in scope, ranging from big game migratory routes to the need for open space. Assistance was related to existing or proposed land uses and their impact on the environment.

Kemmerer, Wyoming, an old railroad and coal mining town, has for years piled garbage on a hillside above town and tried to burn it. Old dump areas could be seen from almost anywhere in the city. Through a rural development effort, the Soil Conservation Service was requested to provide soils and water information that would allow the city to select a sanitary landfill site. Soils data with interpretations were developed for a three-mile radius from the city. A site was selected and made available on land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. The old dumps have been buried and seeded to grass, and the city is now operating a neat, well-kept, modern landfill.

The USDA rural development panel in Jefferson County, Ohio, took the lead in developing a program involving local clean-up committees designed to rid farms and communities of weeds, junk and worn-out cars and farm machinery. The panel made arrangements with a coal company to use strip mine areas for disposal of unwanted materials. Junk dealers received salvage rights in return for picking up old cars and machinery.

The Forest Service has wild and scenic river studies underway on six rivers in cooperation with states, federal agencies and other interested parties in Michigan, Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana. On four studies, public advisory committees have been established to maintain liaison with private landowners and other interests. The intent is to involve citizens in the decision-making process.

Vermont, Oregon, and Connecticut are among states where USDA personnel are serving on natural resource technical teams or environmental impact teams. The teams provide inputs to aid in assessing the environmental impacts of proposed development measures and aid communities in formulating development plans that will lead to a quality environment.

9. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

USDA agencies and the Cooperative Extension Services of the various states provide direct and supportive services to communities and industry in helping expand the business and industrial base of rural areas. Helping improve community support facilities is a necessary step in business development. Technical aid and financial assistance for water, sewage, housing, electric service and telephone service are provided directly by USDA programs. In addition to applying USDA programs to the needs of communities, USDA employees assist communities and entrepreneurs to secure business development assistance from other federal agencies, state agencies and from the private sector, including educational institutions.

The educational process is an important aspect of business development. Extension specialists take the lead in assisting communities in understanding the requirements of business and industry, evaluating community resources and developing a course of action. An awareness of the necessity of housing as a community asset, proper attitude and adequate public facilities is of prime importance. Many workshops and conferences were held during the year by USDA agencies to accomplish this. In many instances USDA people provided information and technical assistance to local development corporations, industrial development groups and other citizen groups concerned with business development.

Statistical Highlights

In carrying out technical assistance and informational activities during FY 73, Department personnel throughout the nation assisted communities or groups interested in business and industrial development with 4,625 industrial or business projects; participated in or conducted 6,776 meetings, workshops or conferences and carried out nearly 1,000 surveys or feasibility studies. Approximately 218 man years were devoted to this activity, compared to 175 in FY 72.

Highlights and Examples

Cooperative work with a national consulting firm and industry has determined factors which motivate industries to establish plants in nonmetropolitan areas, the role of communities in plant establishment and the reaction of the studied communities to new plants. This work is improving communities' opportunities to attract branch plants. This report currently is one of the most widely sought -- nationally and internationally -- of all USDA rural development publications, with requests for nearly 10,000 copies during the first four months of availability.

The Kansas State Forester assisted managers of 172 wood-related industries in the area of wood processing, utilization and marketing. Increased emphasis in residue utilization provided market outlets for several of the commercial mills. Ten feasibility studies were undertaken to provide needed information for new industry development and expansion of present operations. Wood resource volume data was gathered to present to three new industries interested in locating in Kansas.

In cooperation with the Sullivan County State Forester in New Hampshire, an Extension Specialist assisted a pallet firm in the decision to locate. The establishment of a log scaling mill provided direct employment for five local residents and markets for 7.5 million board feet of low grade hardwood logs. This represents about $375,000 in value delivered to the mill. Of this value, landowners received about one-half for stumpage and loggers and truckers the other half for services. In addition, the establishment of the mill added stability to the economic base of the area.

In San Miguel County, New Mexico, Extension agents assisted communities in developing an economic base for balanced growth in business and industrial development, and area workshops for Spanish-speaking businessmen were held. The purpose of the workshops was to assure that enterprises managed by Spanish-speaking people were given every opportunity to participate in USDA procurement and sales programs, or business opportunities resulting in grant, loan and other programs. Information on business and industrial development was prepared and presented for radio broadcast.

Louisiana parish Extension agents in at least 40 parishes have been instrumental in organizing "Industry Appreciation Week" programs. As a result of these activities, local people have formed industrial teams to work for community improvements and toward attracting new industry to their area. Several rural parishes have been successful. LaSalle Parish the 1973 recipient of the USDA Distinguished Service Award, has probably been the most successful. The County Agent of this rural parish, drawing on his previous experience with agri-business type industries, rallied total parish commitment to attracting non-petrochemical industries. The parish has created more than 1,100 new jobs in the past three years. Weekly wages in the parish are now the highest in the 12-parish Central Louisiana area.

Management workshops for managers of small agricultural businesses were conducted by Illinois Extension, involving 14 counties and 96 different firms. The thrust of these programs was to improve general management practices with emphasis on credit management, record keeping, inventory control, long range planning and organization. These workshops were designed to raise the profit level of the firms and thus raise incomes and expansion possibilities in the community.

A project was initiated to help make more jobs available in the low-income community of Taft, Oklahoma. In May, 1971, a group of Taft people, Extension Service representatives, area representatives and community leaders met to discuss what kind of business the Taft people wanted. They decided on a factory to produce toys for preschool children. The goal was to employ nine people the first year. Twenty-six meetings were held to work out details on securing the building site, building of the plant and marketing the toys. A public relations booth was set up at the Tulsa State Fair to help expand sales. Financing of the project was approved in 1972. The community plant will begin operation soon and will employ 14 low-income people during the first year.

A survey conducted by the Rural Electrification Administration revealed that, for calendar year 1972, 810 REA-financed electric and telephone systems assisted 748 community projects relating to business and industrial development. Such assistance took the form of helping arrange financing, securing plant design assistance, locating industrial sites, and securing marketing and management assistance. About 50 percent of REA borrowers responding to the survey indicated representation on 1,400 citizen development groups.

10. RURAL COOPERATIVES

The Department with its various agencies made many meaningful efforts to provide opportunities for rural people, including minority groups, through rural cooperative development in FY 73. This assistance covered a wide range. It aided groups to combine their limited resources in order to obtain needed marketing facilities, supplies, machinery and equipment, storage, processing equipment and other services to help improve cooperative members' income and quality of family living.

Most of the cooperative rural development activity was centered around agricultural cooperatives, but crafts, fishing, machinery, credit, consumer, forestry, recreation, grazing, water and sewer and other cooperative efforts were also emphasized.

USDA helped rural groups to organize and also helped existing cooperative groups in such areas as business management, accounting and record analysis, business planning, operations, analysis and evaluation, markets and marketing, quality control, transportation, labor management and financing.

Statistical Significance

Compared to FY 72, USDA information and technical assistance to rural cooperatives increased significantly in FY 73. Nationwide, the number of man years devoted to this program thrust doubled--from 44 to 89. The number of surveys and feasibility studies reflected this effort--from 271 in FY 72 to 436 in FY 73.

Highlights and Examples

Cooperative educational work has been with newly organized low income, aging, or disadvantaged groups as well as with longer-established cooperatives.

During FY 73, a new dimension using old cooperative principles emerged. Joint educational efforts of the Farmer Cooperative Service and Extension Service have brought about numerous craft cooperatives. This activity has led to the development of many craft and heritage fairs and exhibits that have helped native American crafts to become an economically viable industry. This has added to the employment opportunities of rural America.

"The Handi-Box" in Caroline County, Maryland, a cooperative craft shop located in a rural area of 20,000 people, is typical of groups assisted. More than 200 craftsmen have submitted their work to the shop. In one community an older-citizen group meets every week to work on crafts. Money from the sale of their crafts is used by some of the group for church improvements. The response from shoppers has been overwhelming. In the first six months, the county craftsmen were paid more than $1,844. Every craftsman represented in the shop has received a check.

The Coast Counties Cooperative in California is made up of a few migrant workers. The initial idea was for the workers to grow their own crops and thereby provide their own living. Extension Service, with the help of the Office of Economic Opportunity, assisted the migrant families to start a 40-acre strawberry business. This unit has now grown to more than 140 acres. This cooperative is being used as a model by other groups.

The Forest Service and State Foresters assisted community groups to organize or improve the operation of forestry and grazing land cooperatives.

Several National Forests in New Mexico and Arizona have been instrumental in the organization of local grazing associations whose members operate as a cooperative in pooling their small herds of cattle and managing their entire livestock operation. Already this has brought about a marked improvement in range management and the quality and quantity of livestock produced in many areas.

Several years ago a Colorado forestry cooperative, the Basin Forest Owners, Inc., was formed to assist private woodland owners in the San Juan Basin with land and product marketing management. This year the cooperative made the first sale of pulpwood ever from this area from a member's land.

National Forest district personnel in Wyoming participated in the development and organization of a rural fire protection district. Assistance was directed in areas of equipment inventories, tool cache maintenance and supply, communications, fire fighter training and inter-county cooperation programs.

The Southern Aroostook Forestry Association in Maine is another cooperative community-oriented effort to help stabilize the economy through better management under the broad headings of: (1) Industry and Resources, (2) Forest Management, (3) Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation and (4) Laws and Recreation. The Forest Service is an active participant in the implementation of this rural development effort.

The Many Farms Hay and Feed Marketing Cooperative in Arizona has 41 members growing 600 acres of alfalfa now and more acres projected. The co-op is marketing the hay through Navajo Indian Chapter Houses. Until recently, most hay was purchased through trading posts at single bale prices. This practice was deceptive in terms of both grade and price. The cooperative has been operating "in the black" since its organization in FY 73. It is hoped that the Indian cooperative will be able to supply most of the $7 million worth of hay that has been purchased off the reservation by traders.

The Albermarle Cooperative Association, Edenton, North Carolina, is a recently-organized feeder pig marketing cooperative of 150 members. Recent prices will allow each member to increase his net annual income by $1,200.

The Delmar Grain Corporation, Delmar, Delaware, involved in the cooperative storage and marketing of grain, has 38 members. The first year's savings amounted to $2,000 per member.

The Coopera Tiva Central, Salinas, California, is a strawberry producing and marketing cooperative operated by 74 migrant families. There are 167 acres of producing berry beds. This past season saw the first year of production, with good prices. Depending upon the number of pickers in the family, incomes have increased significantly. Grant and loan funds with much technical assistance made this project possible.

Because of experience in dealing with cooperatives, FHA personnel counseled with groups on organizing, managing and financing cooperatives. Information and technical assistance was given to many groups interested in cooperative housing. In addition, FHA assisted in the financing of grazing associations made up of small farmers. These organizations bought tracts of land and established pasture in order for members to expand their herds.

Many cooperative workshops and seminars were held throughout the country. The Farmer Cooperative Service and the Pennsylvania Extension Service conducted a three-day craft development seminar at Pennsylvania State University. This meeting involved several other state agencies. As a direct result of this meeting, a state craft committee is being organized in order to promote 1,000 new jobs in crafts.

A Cooperative Executive Institute was initiated in FY 73 as a joint effort of the Extension Services in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana in cooperation with the Spokane Bank for Cooperatives, the four state cooperative councils and several regional cooperatives. The Institute was an in-depth educational exercise designed to examine the rapidly changing business environment in which agricultural cooperatives must operate.

APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX B

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(All with the U. S. Department of Agriculture,
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ASCS	Kenneth Frick, Administrator Glenn Weir, Associate Administrator
CSRS	Roy Lovvorn, Administrator
ERS	Quentin West, Administrator
Extension Service	Edwin Kirby, Administrator
FCS	Eric Thor, Administrator
FHA	Frank Elliott, Administrator
Forest Service	John McGuire, Chief Rexford Resler, Associate Chief
RDS	Walter Guntharp, Administrator Gary Madson, Acting Deputy Administrator
REA	David Hamil, Administrator George Herzog, Deputy Administrator
SCS	Kenneth Grant, Administrator Norman Berg, Associate Administrator

Secretary: Joan Thomson, RDS

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APPENDIX D

ABBREVIATIONS

ARS - Agricultural Research Service, USDA
ASCS - Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, USDA
BLM - Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
CSRS - Cooperative State Research Service, USDA
EDA - Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
ERS - Economic Research Service, USDA
ES - Extension Service, USDA
FCS - Farmer Cooperative Service, USDA
FHA - Farmers Home Administration, USDA
FS - Forest Service, USDA
FY - Fiscal Year
HUD - U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
OEDP - Overall Economic Development Program
RC&D - Resource Conservation and Development
RD - Rural Development
RDS - Rural Development Service, USDA
REA - Rural Electrification Administracion, USDA
SCS - Soil Conservation Service, USDA
USDA - U. S. Department of Agriculture
VA - Veterans Administration